



Gear up  
for the  
outdoors

Page 16



Tour the east's  
Lakeside paradise

Pages 20-21



Music fest finds  
Chengdu's best

Pages 12-13

## Lonely at the top



Chinese pair Cao Zhen and Li Ping celebrate their win over compatriots Zhang Jike and Mu Zi during the mixed doubles final at the World Table Tennis Championships in Yokohama, Japan.

The national teams – for a third time – swept all the titles. China has dominated Olympics and Championship games for the past decade. But with no other nations providing competitors capable of entering the final rounds, the future of ping pong is in question. Officials are preparing a series of programs to help other countries catch up and popularize the sport.

Page 7  
IC Photo

Lost grads  
search Taobao  
for future

Page 3

Animators  
strike gold  
after 50 years

Page 4

Media artist  
claims Golden  
Tower's screen

Page 8

Evening  
run for  
fitness, fun

Page 15

**BEIJING'S "1ST" MAGIC & COMEDY CLUB!**  
INTERNATIONAL ACTS! "MONDAY THRU SATURDAY"  
AARON RADATZ  
MAGICAL ENTERTAINER SHOW & OPEN BAR 8PM ¥ 200  
DISCOUNT SHOWS! "4" NIGHTS A WEEK FOR EVERYONE.....  
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY  
ONLY! ¥100 FOR EVERYTHING.....

**Continental Airlines**  
PRESENTED BY  
CHAO YANG PARK EAST GUANHU GARDEN TOWER S1  
UPSTAIRS FROM SPORTS PUB!

**TICKETS**  
59283045/46/47



# Quarantine lifted from stuck Mexican passengers

Health authorities on Thursday started lifting a seven-day quarantine on passengers from Mexico City-Shanghai flight AM098, where a Mexican man was confirmed to be infected with the influenza A (H1N1) virus on May 1.

A Mexican woman, one of the six Mexican nationals aboard the flight, who volunteered to stay in Shanghai for the quarantine, left the quarantine hotel Thursday.

"I love Shanghai. I've worked and lived here for four years, and I will continue to stay here," said the woman, who declined to give her name.

About 110 other people on the same flight were quarantined after a virus carrier was found in Hong Kong.

A Mexico chartered flight took most of the Mexican nationals and 13 crew members back to the country on Tuesday.

Chinese health authorities said Wednesday none of the people under quarantine in China had displayed any flu symptoms so far.

The A (H1N1) flu has killed 42 and infected 1,070 more in Mexico after the first case was detected in March.

A World Health Organization (WHO) officer on Wednesday praised efforts to prevent a possible pandemic of the virus.

"China's experiences with SARS and avian influenza have prepared it well for the current situation with influenza A (H1N1)," said Vivian Tan, communications officer with WHO China.

In Shanghai, 32 quarantined passengers from the flu-infected flight left the hotel Thursday morning. Another group of 39 people, who were on the flight MU505 to Hong Kong with the flu-infected Mexican, ended quarantine that afternoon, according to the Shanghai health authority.

The Beijing Disease Control Center confirmed that 16 quarantined people were released yesterday, of which nine were from the Mexican flight.

One of the passengers, surname Wen, told Xinhua over the phone Thursday morning that she was on her way home.

"Each of us has been given a certificate with the health bureau's seal to verify that we've passed quarantine. My employer sent a car to take me home," she said.

She said the certificate is



Passengers from the Mexico City-Shanghai flight AM098 leaving the quarantined hotel.

CFP Photo

important to prove her health is good so that she will not face prejudice from her colleagues after returning to work.

He Xiong, deputy director of the disease control center, said 51 people remain quarantined in Beijing.

"They were either under health check at hospital or staying in an isolated hotel. None of their saliva sample tested positive for the flu virus," He said.

The Ministry of Health on Wednesday notified local health authorities that the passengers quarantined on the Chinese mainland who took the same flight with the Mexican will be out of quarantine on Thursday, if they display no flu-like symptoms.

The passengers are now scattered in nearly 20 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities on the Chinese mainland.

None of them had showed any flu-like symptoms as of midnight Wednesday, according to the ministry.

The State Council added 5 billion yuan for flu prevention and control work to nationwide health education campaigns about the virus.

(Xinhua)

## Net companies promise to 'delete' bad press

By Huang Daohen

Negative news and consumer reports, once fatal to a company's image, have opened up a new market for online businesses claiming to be able to "delete" negative information from the Internet.

"We were an advertising company before we started the new business," said Li, the boss of Hexin Technology who refused to be named in full. His company got into the deletion business when a client in the tourism industry was exposed by media outlets for service problems. "Clients are god, so we tried and within a single week managed to wipe out the negative reports carried by major Web sites," Li said.

Li said getting content "deleted" was no challenge. In reality, the advertised deletion service merely spams a search engine with enough positive content to push negative matches down to page two.

If that is not enough, Li said his company could hack into Web sites to clean up or kill offending information.

Currently, his company is handling two or three projects every week, which bring in 10,000 yuan. "This is much better than working on advertising or information alone," he said, adding that he plans to give up their regular advertising business and hire more employees to expand the new business.

Hexin is not alone in the new industry. A Baidu search for "delete" and "negative information online" yields 102,000 relevant pages, and Google yields 293,000 results.

But the for-hire censorship industry has some principles: While the companies will "delete" abusive or negative information for a price, they won't touch anything published by or related to the government.

Beijing Today contacted one company and asked what it would cost to have negative information published by the government deleted, but the request was refused.

"No amount of money will make us do that. We will not touch anything that involves the government or the law," a Hexin spokesperson said.

However, Helen Zhang, a senior advisor at a local public relations company in Beijing, said these "professional deletion services" are actually just counter-PR.

"These methods are simply false advertising, and their claims of being able to hack in and remove offending information are practically impossible. It is very difficult to penetrate a system," Zhang said.

## Line 4 subway to be finished

By Han Manman

Construction ends on the new Line 4 subway later this month. The new line will run south, starting in the city's northwest. Trial operations should begin on June 20.

The 28-kilometer line is scheduled to open at the end of September. It will connect Majiapu in the south, with Longbei village in the northwest.

The city has 13 subway lines under construction at a cost of nearly 52 billion yuan. If all lines are completed on schedule, then Beijing will have 19 lines by the end of 2015.

CFP Photo



## County officials free of forced smoking

By Zheng Lu

A county-level government's regulation that all employees must take up smoking has been rescinded Monday after a week of media coverage and public criticism.

Early in March, the leadership team of Gong'an County, Hubei Province, approved a regulation which required all employees of the county to take up smoking. It ordered all employees of administrative groups and public institutions to smoke a combined minimum of 230,000 packs per year. The packs were to be purchased as "office supplies" through the government and from appointed brands.

Each section of the government

was assigned a different number of cigarettes to smoke. The county's Public Security Bureau was assigned the most with 25,000 packs; the Women's Federation was assigned the least with 500 packs. The assignment would have required government offices to spend 4 million yuan per year.

The scandal broke only because of a penalty hidden in the new rules — a 1,000 yuan fine each time an employee was caught buying cigarettes through non-approved channels.

Last month, county inspectors made a surprise raid on several offices, confiscating ash trays and waste. When the inspectors found cigarette butts from an out-of-province maker, the government

said it would fine 26 employers more than 60,000 yuan for violating the regulations.

Media outlets spread the story across the country last week, and many people were said they were shocked by an "absurd document trying to protect the local economy by such stupid methods." Days later, the Gong'an government rescinded its regulations, though it insists its intent was good.

"Regional protectionism exists everywhere; we are just one example," said an official with the county government who refused to give her name. Since Hubei is adjacent to Hunan Province, a major tobacco maker, cigarettes produced in Hubei account for only a fraction of the local market.

To the county government, this translates into lost tax revenue.

"We just want to help local tobacco companies," the official said. "As for the document, it was just intended to scare the public sector into not smoking cigarettes from competing provinces. We never really planned to fine them."

Gong'an smokers puff through more than 10 million packs of cigarettes each year. Under the government's new inspection system, taxes on cigarette sales have changed greatly. The local tobacco industry has suffered deficit prior to 2004. Its worst year was 1999, when only one in five cigarettes sold were made by local producers.

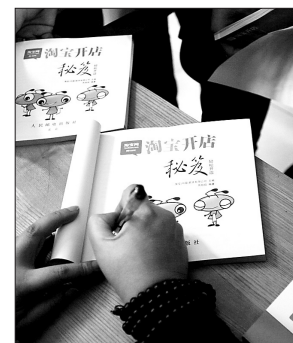


# Will Taobao pick up 2009's surplus grads?

By Jin Zhu

College students this year are faced with the toughest job market yet. With career options few, many are taking up work as online merchants.

The shift has forced colleges from their traditional roles as supervisors of study to supporters of new business. But many people wonder how many, if any, of these student businesses will survive.



Alibaba Group plans to cultivate 10 million online merchants to support employment.



Student entrepreneurs at Yiwu Industrial and Commercial College rely on Yiwu Futian International Market for supplies. Few other schools have such an advantage. CFP Photos

**T**he system is down for upgrades more often. Customer service doesn't pick up. A request to start a new shop can be delayed up to two weeks," said Zhang Dan, an office worker in Shenzhen who runs a shop on Taobao.com. She has been with the site for two years, but has seen the service plummet in recent months.

College students are swarming in unprecedented numbers to start their own e-businesses.

Lower base capital requirements and minimal risk are the main reasons these new merchants cite for working on Taobao.

## Finding self respect



Instead of hunting for jobs, many students are doing business.

Yang Fugang, 25, a third year student in Yiwu Industrial and Commercial College, a county-level vocational college in Yiwu, Zhejiang Province, became a campus hero due to the exceptional performance of his Taobao store.

With only 1,000 yuan from his parents and a laptop once used for gaming, Yang started his online business a year and a half ago. He now grosses 350,000 yuan per month and completes 100 transactions per day. He has hired eight employees to help manage the work.

"I never dreamt of running an online shop before I came here. Some senior students came by to sell locks my first night in the dorm. I was struck by their sharp business sense and natural sales acumen," Yang said.

Unlike most universities and colleges, in which students are expected to focus only on their studies, Yiwu Industrial and Commercial School, a little known vocational college in China, encourages students to start small businesses online.

The school offers classes seven days a week, so students can have more flexibility with their class

schedules. Online ratings can also count toward school credit. A one diamond rating for a Taobao shop, given based on sales volume and customer feedback, translates into two credits.

To help students with managing their shops, the school sent its teachers to attend training classes given by the Alibaba Group, operator of Taobao and one of the most profitable e-commerce companies in China.

Yang benefited directly. With the help of his teacher, he proved a quick learner in the real business world.

Student entrepreneurs like Yang are not the minority. According to school statistics, at least 1,200 of its 8,000 students started an online business at Taobao: 400 students earn 1,000 or more yuan per month from their store. Authorities estimate that the students alone generate 25 million yuan per year from their businesses.

"Starting and running a business is not only to make good money for the students, but also to help them acquire something even more valuable: self respect and confidence at a time when employment is dire," Jia Shaohua, executive vice president of the school, said.

"While most students at other colleges are facing the hardest job search ever, one-fourth of our graduates will leave as business owners. Some may even create jobs for others," he said.

## "The Taobao phenomenon"

Many schools have noticed the potential of consumer-to-consumer sales to offer their students employment options.

A special training center named "Taobao class" was opened by Wenzhou University Oujiang College on March 25, and 30 students sat the first lesson. The full series of classes, taught by people who run their own e-businesses, will cover marketing, technique studies, finance and logistics.

"Compared with other forms, setting up a business at Taobao is more practical for students. It costs less, and even if the business is a failure, the loss will not cripple the

student's future. More importantly, it gives them a chance to improve their competence in real trade," Bao Changxin, a Taobao class teacher, said.

"To be an e-business star like Yang Fugang takes an innate business sense and extremely hard work. But it's not hard to be an ordinary business owner and make 3,000 yuan a month," Jia Shaohua said.

According to a report by the iResearch Consulting Company, a domestic polling organization, Taobao recorded total consumer-to-consumer transactions of 98 billion yuan in 2008, 80 percent of the country's total consumer-to-con-

sumer transaction volume.

The advantages of online shopping were lower product prices and convenience, which have become increasingly important during the financial crisis, Zhang Yu, vice president of Taobao, said. Zhang said as the financial crisis worsens, more students will be pulled into e-business.

"Online business are still commerce, so they require management, marketing, delivery and after service. You can't approach it as a simple job with temporary enthusiasm. For student entrepreneurs, guides are essential to helping them succeed," she said.

## E-business hardly easy street

"Glued to their desktops or laptops, the students are busy bargaining with customers in the dorms, dining hall and library," Ding Dajian, dean of Labor Market Department in Renmin University of China, said when talking about the school's entrepreneurs.

"I spend six days a week online. All the time when I'm not eating or sleeping is sunk in my online business," Niu Ziyi, a second year student in the school, said.

"Doing online business looks easy, but it's actually very tiring. There are so many decisions: from choosing goods from the upstream supplier to the final trade with a customer. I have to handle all of it. Sometimes, I have to spend two hours trying to get the perfect photo of a new product," Niu said.

Moreover, since Taobao has a strict system of grading

customer feedback, the more difficult buyers can require considerable time to satisfy.

"Without hard work, patience and determination, business cannot happen. I feel like a lot of my more romantic ideas and ideals are dying. I just work on how my business is doing," he said.

"The 'Taobao phenomenon' is not something that should be lauded as a model for all schools. Not all students and not all schools are suited to follow this example," Ding Dajian said.

He said the Yiwu Industrial and Commercial College is a special example, one greatly influenced by its surrounding advantages. Not far from the school is the famous Yiwu Futian International Market, whose 40,000 stalls move 200,000 kinds of daily goods. People in the community have a reputation

as born businessmen.

"Without such advantages, students in other areas with other majors will not be able to make wise business decisions. It would be an exhausting effort that ultimately wastes time and energy," he said.

On the other side, "its Internet-based nature means Taobao can provide an unlimited number of sales stalls. Price is the core element in online sales competition. Few merchants are thinking about providing quality goods and creative service," Liu Chunquan, vice director in Policy and Law Committee of China E-commerce Association, said.

"Although fully developed in China, e-business remains a field of swindlers and customer complaints. There are no perfect rules or regulations. I would not consider it an ideal field for college students after they graduate," he said.





Last week, the runaway hit *Goat & Wolf* took to stage for a performance at China Puppet Theater. **CHP Photo**

# Domestic cartoon crushes competitors at box office



The *Monkey King* is a classic domestic cartoon produced in the 1960s.

## Based on life

The cartoon was created in 2004 at the Creative Power Entertaining (CPE), a private company in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. It is the company's first cartoon after setting up a small film studio in 1997.

Huang Weijian, 32, the chief scenario writer, came to the team in 2001. He participated in the production of the studio's first original cartoon *Happy Family*, which was popular with many viewers.

They created *Goat & Wolf* in 2004, using two well-known characters from Chinese fairytales. Unlike past domestic cartoons, it addressed stories more related to the adult world.

The leading role of Big Big Wolf was inspired by Huang himself. The wolf was created to be a "super husband," who did everything he could to please his wife. He would hunt sheep and take care of the housework – performing miserably at both.

Huang said he was asked to earn more money by his wife, which translated into the wolf's wife shouting at him to catch sheep. Huang's wife was also a writer on the team, and their relationship was a well-spring of conflict for the show.

The show began airing the next year, and since then has aired 530 episodes on 40 TV stations.

Last year, based on the success of the series, they decided to make a film to celebrate the New Year. Parents took their children in droves to see the new *Goat & Wolf* movie, which easily broke box office records for a domestic cartoon.

## Secret of success

Chief scenario developer Huang said little about the cartoon's success, but mentioned his all-time favorite cartoon was *Doraemon*. "There is much room to improve, both in filmmaking skill and creativity," he said.

Though some netizens criticized the show as a "general leading an army of dwarves," they admitted it was interesting

By Zhang Dongya

Domestic cinemas always have the latest animated films from Japan and the US, but Chinese animations are oddly missing.

However, that has not been the case the last few months. *Pleasant Goat & Big Big Wolf*, titled *Xiyangyang & Huitailang* in Chinese, has nearly monopolized all domestic cartoon viewing.

Box office returns for the film achieved more than 900 million yuan since airing, beating out US-made blockbusters like *Bolt* and *Madagascar 2*, which hit theaters at the same time.

Last week, the cartoon took to stage for a performance at China Puppet Theater drawing tons of viewers and two encore performances.

It has been a long time since any domestic cartoon had such an impact: the last being *The Monkey King*, a classic produced in 1960s. While *Goat & Wolf* may not save the lagging domestic animation market, it has certainly given a much needed boost to the confidence of Chinese animators.



The cartoon's chief scenario writer Huang Weijian and Wolf met young fans at the cinema. **Photo provided by the Creative Power Entertaining**

enough to watch.

Most Chinese cartoons only target children. They have naive and childish plots with basic dialogue. Miao Kewen, a researcher on the domestic cartoon industry, said a pervasive view that "cartoons are for kids" is the biggest obstacle for the market.

When you lose sight of the large adult audience, you lose your chance to thrive, he said.

*Goat & Wolf* brought the love story and daily life of a truly odd couple onto

the screen, and for many married adults it provided something they could relate to.

The show also tackled hot topics like melamine contamination and "Robin Hood" goods. The film drew immensely from popular culture.

The whole team includes 100 animators and 10 scenario writers. The team's average age is 25, so all the workers are young and creative: most importantly, they are still kids at heart, Lu Yongqiang, manager of the company CPE, said.

## Market woes

Successes like *Goat & Wolf* are rare in the domestic cartoon market. "It is still hard for domestic cartoon makers to produce something original and creative," Yang Xueping, the media manager of CPE, said.

"Money is the biggest problem. We can hardly get a loan, so the risk is huge for private companies like us," Yang said.

Most cartoon makers rely on other industries at the outset. A cartoon maker who can't turn a profit within three years will shift to providing outsourcing services for overseas markets.

Low broadcast payment is another headache. In other countries, studios are paid thousands of yuan for each minute their shows are broadcast: Chinese broadcasters pay 100 yuan per minute.

"Generally speaking, it has to be played on more than 40 television stations at the same time to recover cost. Few shows have been so lucky," he said.

The *Goat & Wolf* series was lucky to be exported to other East Asian countries like Singapore and the Philippines, also some other regions of China like Hong Kong and Taiwan.

It was broadcast on three or four foreign networks, but their combined payment barely equaled what the show earned at home, Yang said.

Since foreign cartoons have already made huge profits in their own countries, they are broadcast overseas without charge, and that is one reason the domestic channels are flooded with foreign animation.

In the last two years, the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television enacted policies to force domestic networks to carry fewer foreign cartoons. Though it was criticized as nationalism, the move may have opened doors for domestic animators.

The government invested heavily in the new cartoon industry and established an award system for the country's young animation base.

## The time is right

China is home to as many as 5,000 cartoon companies. In the last year it produced 120,000 minutes of animation. The entire industry is worth 30 billion yuan.

Despite the declining economy, cartoons are headed for a boom as more people turn to entertainment when the future is uncertain.

The popularity of *Goat & Wolf* reflects progress in domestic cartoon making, and also how contemporary people seem to be "living a longer youth."

Media Manager Yang said they would continue the *Goat & Wolf* series to 1,000 episodes. The studio is planning two new cartoons called *Planet of the Seven Colors* and *Legendary Soccer Kid*.



**CHINA OPEN**  
中国网球公开赛

Sony Ericsson  
WTA TOUR

500  
ATP  
WORLD TOUR

**星耀中网  
为你绽放**

Official Ticketing Service **ticketmaster**  
**www.ticketmaster.cn**

Official Website Service **sina**  
**www.chinaopen.com.cn**

**Booking Hotline**  
**400-707-9999**

National Tennis Center 2009.10.2-11

Official Host Broadcaster **CCTV5**

Official Hotel **HYATT**

中网官方票务平面设计, 北京建想创意设计艺术公司



# Local banks to open forex account for foreign companies

By Huang Daohen

The country's foreign-exchange regulator said Tuesday it will allow overseas companies to open foreign-exchange accounts at domestic banks to help prevent capital flight.

It's the first time the regulator has drafted a rule to regulate foreign exchange accounts opened by overseas companies at local banks. Previously, only foreign banks have been allowed to do the business.

China's increasing involvement in globalization has seen an

increase in the opening of foreign exchange accounts by overseas companies, which requires industry-wide regulations, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) said in a statement on its Web site.

Procedures for opening accounts at local banks will be simplified and constraints on overseas institutions' foreign exchange accounts will be loosened, the statement said.

Under the proposed regulation, Chinese and foreign banks are required to clearly label for-

foreign exchange accounts opened by overseas companies and to enhance oversight of transactions between these and domestic accounts.

The move may be a sign that the government will make it harder for speculative "hot money" to flow in and out of the country through non-resident foreign exchange accounts, Wen Yijun, an industrial analyst at the Oriental Securities, said.

SAFE's statistics show that as many as 100,000 accounts were opened in China by over-

seas companies and institutions at the end of 2008.

"But the authorities lack proper regulation of these accounts, which poses potential management threat to the identification of the account's nature, total statistics and the authenticity of foreign exchange receipts and disbursements," Wen said.

It may easily become a breeding ground for crime as well as a channel for massive capital inflows or outflows, especially during this time of financial turmoil, he said.

Wen noted that the move will also help ensure the safety of domestic firms' funds used for overseas investments as more and more Chinese enterprises have gone abroad.

Chinese companies currently invest abroad through overseas-registered units, and they have worried about the status of major American and European banks, some of which have been technically insolvent during the financial crisis.

SAFE is soliciting public opinion on the draft until May 19.

## Market watch

### Wal-Mart enters China's convenience store market



A Wal-Mart convenience store in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province.

IC Photo

Wal-Mart, the world's top retailer, said Wednesday it launched a pilot program to open convenience stores in China, seeking to boost its presence in one of the world's fastest growing retail markets.

The company, better known for its mega stores and hypermarkets, opened three convenience stores in December in Shenzhen under the program in a low-key initiative.

"The three shops, which are roughly 300 square meters each, are aimed at providing

service to local communities," Vivi Mou, a company spokeswoman, said.

Wal-Mart will observe market acceptance and customer preferences for the stores, named "Smart Choice" or Hui Xuan in Chinese, before deciding on future development plans, Mou said.

She would not give any details about the business performance of the three stores so far.

An unnamed company source was quoted by media

saying Wal-Mart plans to open 100 of the convenience stores across the country this year, and 1,000 in five years. Mou declined to comment on that report.

China's 5.6 trillion yuan retail sector is one of the world's fastest growing. Smaller than Germany's in 2003, the market could be almost twice as big by 2013, according to Euromonitor.

Wal-Mart now operates 227 outlets and employs 70,000 workers in China, according to its Web site.

## Analyst: A good move?

Wal-Mart will benefit from its clout as the world's biggest retailer in the new convenience store initiative, said a retail analyst at a major Western brokerage, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"We will see an immediate impact in terms of competition for prime locations for store operations," he said. "It is a good move in the longer term for collecting market intelligence such as consumer behav-

ior. It will be useful for its other retail operations."

Convenience stores have become a lucrative business segment for retailers in China, enjoying relatively high margins and lower penetration in the country.

Taiwan's President Chien, which operates 7-Eleven convenience stores in Taiwan under a licensing agreement, recently opened its first 7-Eleven in Shanghai.

Other foreign convenience store operators in China include Japan's Lawson and local operators Kedi and Lianhua.

Wal-Mart's Mou said its larger stores will remain the company's key business model in China.

Analysts say the company still has plenty of room to grow in China, as it shifts its focus from mature markets to countries like Mexico, China and Brazil.

(Reuters)

## Taiwanese tycoon challenges Buffett's investment

A Taiwanese business tycoon has criticized US investor Warren Buffett's decision to invest in a Chinese battery and car maker that faces a lawsuit accusing it of stealing trade secrets.

Officials with Buffett's company, Berkshire Hathaway, said they believe the allegations against China's BYD Company are unfounded.

In an interview with a Taiwanese newspaper published Monday, Terry Gou, head of Taiwanese electronics giant Hon Hai Precision Industry, questioned the American investor's decision to invest in the batterymaker BYD, which Hon Hai has sued for intellectual property violations.

"Didn't Buffett proclaim that he would only invest in companies that are trustworthy?" Gou was quoted as telling the Chinese-language *Economic Daily News*. "Then why did he invest in BYD, which stole commercial secrets from (Hon Hai affiliate) Foxconn?"

In June 2006, Hon Hai took BYD to court in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, saying BYD stole commercial secrets from Foxconn. The Taiwanese company has complained that the mainland court is dragging its feet in the BYD case.

A Hon Hai official confirmed the contents of the Gou interview. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not permitted to deal with the press.

BYD spokeswoman Jasmine Huang rejected Gou's claims.

"This is the malicious attack of a rival," she said. "For the time being we will ignore it."

Buffett and Berkshire's Vice Chairman Charlie Munger were asked about the allegations against BYD at a news confer-

ence on Sunday, and Buffett deferred to Munger because he initiated Berkshire's investment in BYD and knows the Chinese company well.

Munger said the allegations Foxconn made against BYD have already been dealt with in a Japanese court.

"That set of claims, in my view, has been totally discredited," he said. "I don't have any ethical concerns about BYD."

A call Monday morning to a Berkshire spokeswoman was not immediately returned.

MidAmerican spokeswoman Ann Thelan said BYD has shown a remarkable ability to compete in the automotive industry as they develop commercial applications for research and new technology.

"This market-oriented approach is needed as global climate change is addressed in a manner that will enhance, not harm, the world-wide economy," Thelan said.

Hon Hai is the world's leading contract electronics manufacturer. It provides components for popular consumer electronics brands, including Apple's iPhone.

In the interview, Gou said BYD hired more than 400 Foxconn employees and "stole more than 10,000 documents" from the Taiwanese company.

"They sent spies to steal documents from us and later destroyed the evidence," he was quoted as saying.

BYD, which stands for Build Your Dreams, has now expanded to the field of electric cars, and the manufacture of cell phones and related components. Its cell phone business took off after Nokia and Motorola reportedly switched their orders to it from Foxconn.

(Agencies)

## JP Morgan opens fourth branch

JPMorgan Chase Bank (China) has opened a branch in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, its fourth on the mainland, to serve local and multinational clients in the manufacturing heartlands of the Pearl River Delta.

The branch, which officially

opened on Monday, offered cash-management services, trade finance, liquidity management, foreign exchange and investment banking, the bank said in a statement.

The bank's other branches are in Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin.

(Agencies)



# Dominance in ping-pong a delight or a danger?

By Huang Daohen

With 18 medals, including five golds, China dominated the World Table Tennis Championships held in Yokohama, Japan from April 28 to May 6. But there may be some bad news to follow the good: Table tennis is in danger of being thrown out from the Olympics since no country can challenge China's domination.

## Clean sweep again

The national team swept all the titles at the recent World Table Tennis Championships in Japan. On Tuesday, world number one seeds Wang Hao and Zhang Yining claimed the men's and women's singles titles, respectively.

It is the country's third successive clean sweep of the event held biennially. In some events, the national team took all the semi-final spots.

Wang Hao, who won the men's doubles title with Chen Qi on Monday, made it a double victory with a 4-0 win over teammate Wang Liqin in the singles final, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Zhang, a Beijing Olympic gold medalist, secured the women's singles title after a 4-2 victory over fellow Chinese world number two Guo Yue.

Guo and Li Xiaoxia took the gold for women's doubles, while Li Ping and Cao Zhen snatched the mixed doubles crown.

Officials welcomed the results, but instead of jumping in celebration, they worried about the future of the sport.

"It's dangerous. If one association keeps winning everything, it's good for that association, but it's not good for the sport," Cai Zhenhua, the deputy sports minister and the most senior table tennis official, told a press conference after the women's singles final.

The country has dominated the World Table Tennis Championships in the past decade, missing only the men's singles title at the 2003 championships in Paris.

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) also sees danger in the status quo and has launched initiatives to make



The successive clean sweep is good news for the country, but bad news for the sport.

IC Photo

the event more competitive. In 1996, the ITTF introduced new rules to use larger and slower balls. Later, it introduced a new

11-point game system in 2001.

After the Beijing Olympics, the federation banned the use of speed glue, an adhesive that

increases the elasticity of the paddle. But it seems nothing can stop China's world domination of ping-pong.

## Suggestion: Share training secrets

"The Chinese team is too strong for the world," Thomas Ransom, a veteran sports journalist in Beijing, said. "Even after pulling out five or more of its top players, it still swept all the titles."

"But having no other countries in the final rounds of international events will be counterproductive," he said. "If one team keeps winning all at the world championships or

Olympics, the sport's future is in danger."

Ransom said China should reveal to the world its training techniques and ways of playing winning table tennis.

That is the very thing China is planning to do. Chinese table tennis officials have worked out a series of programs to help other countries catch up in the sport.

According to a plan released

by the Chinese Table Tennis Association (CTTA), the country will send coaches and trainers to countries that do not have a good showing in the sport. It will also open more doors to non-Chinese players in the country's top league.

Cai Zhenhua, chairman of the CTIA, said China has a responsibility to make table tennis a more popular sport.

"We reached the top of the table tennis ladder in the 2008 Olympic Games by sweeping all the titles, and now we should share in the ITTF's responsibility of making the sport more popular and spectacular," he said.

"As a player and a coach, I only saw gold medals," Cai said, "Now, I'm thinking more about the global development of the sport."

## Warning: Young people losing their love for ping-pong

Once a huge part of life, table tennis's popularity among the younger generation is waning as other sports take precedence, said Jeff Bass, a visiting US scholar at a Beijing university.

Bass, who is also a ping-

pong fan, said that as a child, he found out on TV that Chinese people were enamored with ping-pong, and that people of all ages would flock to public parks to play it.

"But things were a bit dif-

ferent when I arrived here four years ago," he said.

China had its best ever Olympics showing last year, and as a result, the most-watched sports like gymnastics and swimming are thriving, Bass said.

Basketball has also become incredibly popular ever since Yao Ming joined the NBA in 2002. "Kids who would once have idolized a world-class ping-pong player now idolize Yao," Bass said.

## Comment

### Let the best play against the best

To me, the best way to promote the sport is to let the best play against the best, regardless of the flags they are carrying. And let us go "wow" and "ah..." over amazing skills. The childish thinking, "If I do not win, I will not play," will kill any sport.

— Felix, engineer from Ireland

### Be more open-minded

I don't want to throw in the political angle. However, the Olympic committee needs to be a bit more open-minded and not allow politics to influence a sport's fate.

Seriously, why did we hear of sports such as men's basketball, swimming and track and field being eliminated, even after the same nations have dominated these events for years? Should we ban Michael Phelps, because he took all the gold in all the events in which he participated? No. So, why should table tennis be the exception? Just because it is currently dominated by Asian nations, China in particular?

If we treat Federer, Tiger Woods or Michael Jordan like heroes, why can't we do the same for players or teams in other sports?

— Song Guanhui, editor with the China Youth Daily

### Ping-pong irreplaceable

Nowadays, people play many other sports. But it doesn't mean ping-pong can be replaced. China has 5,000 years of history, and after all that time, China is still irreplaceable.

I believe that ping-pong will remain entrenched in China's national identity

— Li Jinjing, CCTV producer

### Generosity from China

It is generous of China to share its training secrets. This will increase competitiveness all around.

— Dora Pallis, tourism advisor



# Spaniard to attempt world trip on electric bicycle

By Han Manman

A Spaniard is planning a journey from Beijing to London on a rechargeable bike as part of a three-year environmental awareness campaign. He is hoping to arrive in the British capital in time for the 2012 Olympic Games.

The crusader, 33-year-old Guim Valls Teruel from Barcelona, will use solar energy-rechargeable bike batteries. He said he wants to raise awareness for alternative transport through his 80,000-kilometer trip through more than 40 countries.

"I want to spread the message about this invention to all corners of the world," Teruel said. "Millions of Chinese people already use them and they can be an important part of a green revolution in the rest of the world."

Teruel was born into a family with a strong passion for travel and adventure. His childhood

memories are filled with amazing experiences acquired during summer vacations.

"My parents toured through the European continent, taking me and my friends with them," he said. "Our car always carried our treasured Canadian tent, allowing us to go on expeditions to the wilderness and secluded mountain ranges."

It was those many summer adventures that sowed the seeds of Teruel's great dream: to see the world.

To fuel his dream, he began saving money by taking on a variety of jobs: sound technician, Christmas food delivery man, waiter, congressional organizer, event producer, topography assistant, road manager, commercial director, ad artist and tour-operator manager.

He also decided to live overseas to prepare his mind and spirit. Two years ago, he left Spain for China to manage

a restaurant, which has since closed.

"During a farewell party, a friend came up to me and said, 'Wow, you really have balls, I would love to do the same, but I don't dare. I envy you,'" Teruel said.

"To me it is not a question of daring or bravado, simply a feeling, a desire deep within," he said.

"From my perspective, staying in one place, having a stable social life but working an unfulfilling job seems much more difficult than moving around the world making discoveries. In a way, I could say I also envy my friend, but I will keep my dream."

Teruel will begin his big journey in two weeks. His travel route will take him and his electric bike through China, Australia, India, Europe, South America and the US east coast before reaching England via Ireland.



Guim Valls Teruel  
CFP Photo

## German artist shows work on gigantic public screen

By He Jianwei

Every night until June 30, people passing by the East Fourth Ring Road will see on one of the buildings a giant screen showing a digital piece – two

men standing face-to-face, playing rock, paper, scissors.

The 107-meter-by-130-meter LED screen, about the size of two football fields, is said to be the biggest in town. It is mounted

on the facade of the Golden Tower building and is playing the work of Tobias Zaft, a 27-year-old German artist, who wants to bring art into public spaces.

With more than 100,000 vehi-

cles passing by the area every day, at least one million people will see Zaft's digital creation.

Two months before it began screening on April 15, Zaft drove by Golden Tower and saw Christmas trees on the LED screen. "That's a boring ad. What a big waste of the LED screen," he said. Then the wheels in his mind started turning.

A week later, he strode into Golden Tower without an appointment. A huge security guard blocked his path. "I have a meeting here and I must go in," he told the guard in all seriousness.

He then walked up to the receptionist and said, "I want to meet your boss. I brought a creative idea for him."

Fortunately for Zaft, he spoke to Li Pengyang, the building's manager. "My first instinct was to ask him to leave," Li said. But his curiosity made him take a second look at the German artist.

"I'm interested in your big screen, but I don't like the Christmas tree," Zaft said. He pulled out his iPhone and showed Li how his digital work might appear on the building's screen. "In Germany, the game is called Schnick, Schnack, Schnuck. The most interesting thing is that almost every country knows this game."

Li was fascinated with Zaft's idea. He said that if the building's directors agreed to the plan, he

would also support Zaft.

Three hours later, the artist got his approval.

The project beats anything Zaft has ever done in his two years in Beijing. A multimedia artist, Zaft was able to exhibit his installations at the 798 Art District earlier this year. Everything went well at first – until the gallery decided to cut off the electricity for his exhibit.

"Without electricity, my installation was like a painting exhibited in a darkroom," he said.

Last summer, he wanted to put up an exhibition in another gallery, but was told he needed to pay at least 9,000 yuan for rent every day. "I felt that the art space in China was becoming gobbled up by commercialism," Zaft said.

He found the same thing in art school. As a student at the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA), he saw that most students did not care about discovering their personal style; they were preoccupied analyzing commercially successful art pieces.

Since then, he has decided to prove he can make art even without much money. His digital work at Golden Tower is only the beginning. "One of the missions of an artist is to dare to dream, because other people's occupations don't allow them much time for dreaming," he said.



Tobias Zaft believes an artist's mission is to dare to dream.

Photo provided by Goethe-Institut China



# Art auction held to benefit Australian bushfire victims

By Li Zhixin

An art auction will be held at 798 Art District to benefit survivors of the Victorian bushfires last February, Australia's greatest natural disaster.

It will be preceded by the opening of the exhibition *Coming Home* will open at the district's new Linda Gallery.

*Coming Home*, which is the largest exhibition of Chinese Australian contemporary art ever to be held in China, Catherine Croll, the curator, said. "All of the artists are Australian Chinese, and their 'Coming Home' to China is a part of this event."

Nearly 80 pieces of art will be displayed and more than 30 items will be auctioned off, Croll said. "During the preparation, a number of participating artists suggested they would like to donate artwork to raise funds for the victims of the Victorian bushfires. Twenty-nine of our artists have now donated works valued at over AU \$250,000 (1.2 million yuan) for Victoria," she said.

Zhong Deng, one of the artists, said their donations were a way to let the victims know they were not alone. "While we were traveling to our homeland to take part in the *Coming Home* exhibi-

tion, we thought of our Australian countrymen and women. Most victims who survived from the bushfires only have the clothes they were wearing then, and not even shoes. They've lost everything they ever owned."

Croll said that the funds raised through the auction will go toward rebuilding schools and providing libraries books and art materials.

Nearly 200 people died in the Victorian bushfire, while thousands of hectares of bush land and farmland were destroyed, along with electricity and water infrastructure.

## AmCham-China calls for contribution to Sichuan earthquake relief

By Han Manman

The American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in China on Tuesday appealed to its member-companies to continue supporting the earthquake relief and reconstruction efforts in Sichuan almost a year after the calamity.

To mark the quake's first anniversary, the chamber sponsored a symposium in Beijing on Tuesday titled "Reviewing Progress and Renewing Purpose." The gathering examined the emergency response and relief successes of AmCham's member-companies over the past year. It also discussed future projects and investment in Sichuan Province.

"All of us who are engaged with China will likely remember where we were the exact moment we felt the tremors or heard the news for the first time of the tragic earthquake that struck Sichuan," John Watkins, chairman of AmCham-China, said.

He said the chamber is proud to have played a part in the massive response to the natural disaster. In the days and weeks after the earthquake, the chamber and its member-companies donated more than US \$100 million (682 million yuan) to the relief effort in the form of goods, cash and services.

"For most member-companies, the efforts in Sichuan comprise only a portion of

their corporate social responsibility activities in China," Watkins said, adding that the companies have also launched long-term support programs in quake-hit areas.

Bertelsmann AG contributed US \$810,000 to rebuild a school that was seriously damaged by the tremor. The school will reopen this September.

Through its iWorld Project, Intel will build 200 top-level e-classrooms in 41 devastated cities and counties. The company will also extend to local schools its Intel Teach program and Intel Volunteer-Matching grant program to restore and develop the quality of education in these areas. Intel has already built a platform based on Web 2.0 technologies to allow Intel employees to assist children in disaster areas via the Internet.

As part of Standard Chartered's efforts to help rebuild Sichuan communities, the bank has constructed a facility for the elderly and orphans in Mianzhu town. The facility is targeted for completion at the end of this year.

"Although the earthquake is now one year behind us, there is still more to be done to rebuild the affected communities," Watkins said, adding that AmCham hopes the promotion of the efforts of some of their member-companies will encourage more to pitch in toward Sichuan's reconstruction.

## Guinean beats in PLA Opera House

By Jin Zhu

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Guinea, Les Ballets Africains de Guinea, a national song and dance ensemble established in 1952, performed at the Opera House of the People's Liberation Army in Beijing on May 5.

The group presented the song and drama "The Memory of Manding Empire," which elicited cheers from the audience.



CFP Photo

# expat show

## Beijing

2nd edition

May 22 - 24, 2009

China World Trade Center

150 exhibitors

10,000 visitors

SCHEDULE

Friday May 22nd 10AM - 6PM

Saturday May 23rd 10AM - 6PM

Sunday May 24th 10AM - 5PM

Free shuttle from Tianjin and Shunyi!

Details on our website!

USEFUL

Bazaar

B2B Area

Education

Health

Insurance

Real-Estate

Travel...

FUN

Association Area

Food Festival

Kid Playground

Kindergarten

Soccer Tournament

Wii Fit® Competition...

Beijing

(Peking)

EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW WHEN LIVING IN BEIJING

Register Online Now! >> [www.expatshowbeijing.com](http://www.expatshowbeijing.com)



# Beijing Playhouse opens Romeo and Juliet today



Romeo and Juliet has 100 crew and cast members.

Photos by Huang Xiao

By Annie Wei

After a year's preparation, Beijing Playhouse's version of the classic love story *Romeo and Juliet* opens today.

The play sticks to the traditional Shakespeare story, but with more "fun" and some Chinese perspective added, the theater group said. The audience can expect love and death, romance and passion, and a bit of humor.

"It's a tragedy, very Shakespearean, and will not change. We emphasize the funny parts, which are from Shakespeare as well," Chris Verrill, executive director of the show, said. Performances will be in English with Chinese subtitles, and involves over 100 cast and crew members.

The Playhouse's cast and crew are made up of locals



A scene from the play

and expats from a variety of backgrounds, but who are united by their passion for acting. For lead roles, like Juliet and Romeo, the actors and actresses practiced five days a week for more than two

months, Verrill said.

Beijing Playhouse, the city's sole English community theater group founded in 2006, has already staged numerous Broadway favorites such as the musical *Gypsy* and

*Dolls*, the drama *Love Letters*, the comedy *The Odd Couple*, and the traditional Christmas-time presentation *A Christmas Carol*.

## Romeo and Juliet

Where: Block 8, West gate of Chaoyang Park, 8 Chaoyang Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 31, every Friday and Saturday, 7: 30 pm; Sundays 2 pm

Tel: 13718908922 (Beijing Playhouse); 6508 8585 (Block 8)

Cost: 400 yuan on opening night; 260 yuan for advance standard tickets; and 300 yuan at the door. Groups of 20 or more receive a 10-percent discount; 40 or more a 20-percent discount. Students and children above 5 are half price for the May 14 show (130 yuan advance tickets; 150 yuan at the door).

## Strawberry Festival makes successful new brand

By Wang Yu

During the Labor Day holiday, tens of thousands of people cheered on Beijing's only remaining music festival on the lawns of Tongzhou Canal Park.

Modern Sky's newest production, the three-day Strawberry Music Festival, concluded its first year after US noisemaker Deerhoof finished its last note on the main stage. The band's loud guitar sounds and furious beats could not connect with many in the audience, but that was the price of introducing a new style. The organizer invited such groups to drive home the event's message: music comes first, not reputation.

According to Modern Sky, the festival was held in part to prove that Beijing occupied the top spot in the country's



US Band Deerhoof

music scene. A star of the show was Joanna Wang, a young Taiwanese pop jazz singer who took the mainland by storm with her first album. Zhang Chu, a pioneering rock artist, brought in festivalgoers for the chorus of his song and brought the event to fever pitch the first day.

Arms and Legs, a New York band that released their album *Everything is Gonna be Okay*

under Modern Sky, switched the style from acoustic to a more powerful sound the second day. Lead singer Scott Daly's jumping and swinging also won him many fans.

The same day, post-punk group Rebuilding the Rights of Statues, which has worked with Brian Eno in its debut album, stunned listeners with its cold melodies and strong stage presence. Xiaojuan, a

folk singer who is making a name with her quiet tones, serenaded the audience from the "Love Stage" on the last day and was called for an encore.

Compared with Modern Sky's festivals in the past two years, last week's event was more relaxed. It created a friendly atmosphere and was free of anger or irritation. A billboard was covered with notes and messages from attendees; cameramen filming the event led people in cheering for the bands; and even some security guards joined in the games. Like similar events in Beijing, however, people were not allowed to camp on the grounds overnight.

But for Modern Sky, it has created a new brand which it hopes will continue to be influential in the Beijing, and the country's, music scene.

## Event

### Win a chance to be on the cover of The Village Times

The Village, in conjunction with the studio of KK Fong, a prominent Hong Kong fashion photographer, will produce *V-tamin*, a summer style-guide magazine. The Village shoppers who spend at least 500 yuan in a day can enter the "IN Villager" lucky draw. The winner will be invited for an exclusive photo shoot with KK Fong and his team, and his or her photograph will appear on the cover of *The Village Times*.

Where: The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 8-20

Tel: 6536 0588

### Scientific Cinema in Spanish

Instituto Cervantes opens its new cinema series today, with a focus on the sciences. On all weekends of May and June, the institute will screen some of the most impressive documentaries produced by research institutions in Spanish-speaking countries.

Where: Instituto Cervantes, A1 Gongti Nan Lu (opposite the south gate of the Workers Stadium), Chaoyang District

When: May 8-9, 7 pm

Tel: 5879 9666

Cost: Free

### Folk culture and underground explorations

MA Studio and the University of the Basque Country present Laurita Siles and Edurne Gonzalez's first art exhibit in the country. Siles explores the relationship among Chinese, Basque and Spanish folk cultures, while Gonzalez's art explores underground spaces.

Where: Room 10, MA Studio, 2 East Zone, 318 Art Garden, Hegezhuang, Chaoyang District

When: May 8-10, 3 pm - 7:30 am

Tel: 13910842748

Cost: Free

### Club Obiwan's 2nd birthday party

The idyllic club on the north bank of Xihai Lake celebrates its second birthday with a lineup of its regular DJs, plus Meiwen Sound, Funk Fever, Beijing Calling and 604 DJ crews. The party starts with a free barbecue, and there will be free beer from 9 to 11 pm.

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyuan (200m from Jishuitan subway station), Houhai, Chaoyang District

When: May 9, 8 pm

Tel: 6617 3231

Cost: Free

### Little Chen's Village & the Great Sichuan Earthquake Exhibition

How do you help kids remember last year's earthquake in Sichuan? Chen Qi is an 8-year-old boy from Yaojin Village in Sichuan Province. His village turned to rubble and dust following the earthquake last May. This family-friendly photo and video exhibition shows Chen's life shortly after the quake and his village's reconstruction efforts. Focusing on hope and recovery, this exhibition sponsored by Operation Blessing uses sight, sound and touch to let children understand Chen's world.

Where: Beijing Municipal Planning Center, 20 Dongda Jie (just across Qianmen's Legation Quarter), Chongwen District

When: May 7-12, 9 am - 5 pm

Tel: 6466 9296

Cost: 15 yuan for children; 30 yuan for adults

(By Venus Lee)



# Expat center offers adult education classes



Fashion design is one of the most popular classes at The Expat Learning Center. Photo provided by The Expat Learning Center

By Venus Lee

Marisa Vidafel, 34, an office clerk from Spain, has long wanted to study fashion design but could not find the right school in Beijing because of the language barrier. Many people in town are in the same boat; they want to pursue a dream or an interest, but do not know how to navigate the obstacles in a foreign land. This has created a demand for training organizations geared toward expats.

The Expat Learning Center (ELC) is trying to respond to this need. It is offering adult education classes in art and design, business, computers, music, languages and Chinese culture. The center's most popular classes are painting and drawing, fashion design, photography and dancing, said ELC consultant Cherry Chen.

"Our students are naturally creative, but have had few opportunities to develop and express their talents. So we provide a platform for them to fire their imagination and realize their dreams," she said.

"All our courses are taught in English by foreign instructors who are recognized for outstanding achievements in their field," Chen said.

Helena Reiberger, 37, who studies

fashion design, is grateful to have discovered the center. "It's a place where I can set my imagination free and not be afraid of language difficulties, because the instructors and students have English as their first language," said the native of Sweden.

"I was so proud when I appeared in front of my friends wearing my own design. They screamed in excitement and marveled at what I've accomplished," she said.

Reiberger said ELC's structure suits her. "The school provides the sewing machine and tools. We students just need to focus on our ideas, and practice designing with the supervision of instructors." She said the tuition for fashion design class is 3,200 yuan, while materials cost around 600 yuan.

Yoon Keun Kim, 28, who comes from South Korea, studies photography at the center. "I'm a shutterbug but my skills suck, so I decided to take a photography class. I'm not dreaming of being a professional photographer. I just want to better capture amazing moments in daily life, and share my work with friends and family," he said.

"What I learn is simple and practical, like basic photography skills, lighting,

framing. I also enjoy sharing experiences with friends in class. It is not only fun but enriches my knowledge," he said.

Kim's friend and fellow South Korean, Choe Du-Suk, 31, takes lessons in painting and drawing. "He has become very sensitive to angling, lighting and dimensions," Kim said, adding that Choe is new to art. The tuition for photography, and painting and drawing is 3,200 yuan per class.

Most students at ELC are beginners, but they catch up fast, Kim said. "Class timetables are very convenient and flexible for students like me who work," he said.

The center recently opened a class in filmmaking and interior design, which has become a hit among beginners, Chen said. Students who want to develop their skills on a professional level can proceed to advanced lessons, she said.

**The Expat Learning Center – Chaoyang**

Where: 3205 Xiandaicheng Building A, Chaoyang District

**The Expat Learning Center – Chongwen**  
5 Donghuashi Beili Xiqu, Chongwen District

Tel: 8580 3111

Web site: beijing-classes.com

## Wireless Internet packages on offer

By Annie Wei

People who want to enjoy a lazy summer day at a cafe, surfing the web, better watch out for some landmines. Wireless Internet services in some local cafes have gotten a bit confusing: Users who are not subscribed to Internet packages have to pay 12 yuan per hour to operators China Mobile, China Telecom or China Union. But with some basic information, the landscape is not so difficult to navigate.

The operators offer a variety of package deals. China Mobile offers 500 megabits for 50 yuan, 2 gigabits for 100 yuan, 5 gigabits for 200 yuan and 10 gigabits for 300 yuan. The 500-megabit package roughly translates into being able to view 20 Web pages, or 500 links on portals like Sina and Sohu.com.

China Telecom's charges are based on hourly rates. For instance, a package of

300 hours' use within Beijing and 5 hours outside the city costs 160 yuan; 200 hours of local and nationwide use amounts to 200 yuan; and 360 hours locally and nationwide costs 300 yuan. People who want more than 5 hours of connectivity outside the city need to pay a monthly fee of at least 200 yuan.

China Unicom seems to offer the cheapest deal with 3 gigabits for 150 yuan. To movie lovers, this means about five movie downloads per month; a movie's file size is usually 600 Megabytes.

For wireless Internet on cellphones, the cheapest package is 5 yuan for 30 megabits – adequate for QQ fans. Those who go online to check emails on their phone can get 150 megabits for 20 yuan.

On the whole, coffee shops still provide the cheapest wireless Internet service – if you know those that will offer it



3G has kicked off in China but the cost is still expensive. CFP Photo

for free in exchange for a 20-yuan drink that can last an entire afternoon.

Many geeks suggest WiFi-addicts get a cellphone on the grey market because cellphones sold through legal channels in the Chinese mainland are not allowed to have WiFi function.

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:  
weiyi@ynet.com

I'm looking for novelty or touristy shot glasses. I've collected them from all over the world, but I can't seem to find any in Beijing. I've seen plenty of shot glasses in Chinese designs, but what I'm looking for are ones with a picture or the name of a tourist spot, like the Great Wall or Forbidden City.

Check out the following places that draw many foreign tourists:

**Silk Street Market**

Where: Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District (You can take Subway Line 1 and get off at Yong'anli station)

**The Friendship Store**

Where: 17 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

**Panjiayuan Market**

Where: 18 Panjiayuan Lu, Chaoyang District (open only on Saturdays and Sundays)

Days ago, I received a phone call in which a recorded message in Chinese said my phone bill was due and that I had to pay immediately. But I've never used that phone to make calls; only to take incoming calls. My apartment's property management office suggested I buy an Internet recharge card. Do you think the phone call was about my Internet? If I buy an Internet recharge card, will that take care of my phone bill too?

If you did not make any outgoing calls on your phone, you only need to pay the monthly Internet fee, which costs 120 yuan on the average.

The Internet recharge card is called a *shangwangka*. To get the right card, first find out from your landlord the name of your Internet provider. There are several, including Tietong, Wangtong (Chinanet) and Dian Xin (China Telecom).

I have a carpet at home that I want to have cleaned. Are there any carpet washers that can pick it up from my house?

Try Clean-ltd.Com, a 24-hour carpet-cleaning company. They charge depending on the carpet's size and the method of cleaning. Call 5126 3278 for more information.

I'm an illustrator, and I'm looking for a print shop that has big Epson or HP inkjet printers and matte paper. I will even settle for ink and paper that are non-archival. Can you suggest any places?

The Wukesong camera market has an Epson store on its first floor.

Where: 40 Wukesong Lu, Haidian District

Tel: 8811 9723

You can also try the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA). Its print shop does professional-level work, the price is cheap and it has staff who speak English. They have large-format HP and Epson printers, and various paper stocks.

Where: 8 Huajiadi Nan Jie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6477 1114

I moved to Beijing three months ago with my nine-year-old beagle. Last week, she stopped eating. When I took her to see a vet, I was told she has lymphoma. Do you know specialists who can help her?

Get in touch with the International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS).

Where: Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6202 3827

(By Sima Hao)



By Wang Yu

Almost 150,000 people, including children from Beichuan and their teachers, gathered at the Poly 198 Tulip Park over the May Day holiday. The group shook Chengdu, Sichuan Province, for a second time.

But this time, the epicenter was music.

Three stages played host to rock and electronic shows organized by professional production teams. No one would argue the newborn Zebra Music Festival was anything less than a success. The event showcased the music scene of southwest China.

# New festival gives Chengdu's home



Smbasia



Muma &amp; Third Party



Sound Toy

## Biggest music event

Even for the regulars who made it to MIDI or Modern Sky in Beijing, Zebra was a new experience true to the nature of a music festival. It was a day of peace, love and melody.

The venue, the Poly 198 Tulip Park, was finished shortly before the festival began. Its wide, green lawns and variety of flowers gave the sprawling festival grounds a natural ambience.

"I've never performed in such a beautiful setting. This park is a perfect location to stage a music festival," said Wang Zi, lead singer of the Beijing band Casino Demon during a rehearsal performance on April 30.

At 2,400 square meters, the main stage was larger than any in the history of Chinese music festivals. Its seating area allowed for up to 40,000 people. During the shows, the stages lit up with huge, multi-panel LED screens, projectors and hundreds of stage lights.

While the music fans enjoyed the magnificent sound from the main stage, another platform, the "Lotto Stage," also shined during the three

days. The stage was host to Chengdu artists, many of whom took the audience by storm even though they were far from mainstream.

Fourteen NGOs, including CNature Conservation Association World Wide Fund, Yinghuo and Animals Asia Foundation, joined the event to present their missions especially in the earthquake areas to festivalgoers. Most said it was a good opportunity to call attention to charity.

"The Internet has attacked the record industry. By organizing the music festival, we hope to offer more opportunities to young musicians," said Scarlett Li, CEO of Zebra Media, one of the co-founders. She met Xia Qijian, president of Chengdu TV Station last year after the earthquake. The two have worked with local media the last two years to prepare for the event.

The results proved Li's choice of Chengdu was a wise one. But Zebra Music Festival has a long way to go before it can be profitable. "The cost is the most challenging part. Travel

expenses added 30 percent to the overall cost compared to if we had done it in Beijing," Li said.

"I had a great time yesterday night," Qi said. "Most of the people came to watch the fun, and I hope the event can attract even more people with its music. We plan on it taking at least three years before Zebra can become profitable – its future reputation depends on the music."

## Chengdu style

"It is new and interesting. Me my nine classmates are excited to attend the festival and we were glad to see a performance by S.H.E," Wen Hong, a student who survived the earthquake, said. She and her classmates read poems in memory of





# Love stage to hometown stars



Carsick Cars

Photo by Renhuacao



Music fans camped out during the concerts.

Photo by Faye Lee

the dead on the main stage during the third day.

Almost every band mentioned its concern for the victims who were still rebuilding in the quake zone, but real local spirit was found only on the Lotto Stage, where some of the artists had experienced the earthquake firsthand.

"We are living every day chasing something to get ahead. But last year, many people lost the chance to continue to chase their dreams. Let's not forget them," said Joshua Love, lead singer of Proximity Butterfly, a local band consisting of three foreign players. The band played a new untitled song written in memory of the victims.

Love traveled to many places after leaving the US, finally settling in Chengdu, where he teaches at the University of Electronic Science and Technology. "I never felt homesick until I went with my wife to Canada to give birth to our child. I missed Chengdu so much: it is our home," Love said.

"It's an open city where you can do whatever you love

without holding back. I've been to other big cities in China, but as in the West, there are always people making rules and telling you that you will never be a success," he said.

Members of Mr. Chelonian felt the same. Organized in Guangxi, the band moved to Chengdu in 2006 after its first tour. "We just love the city's lifestyle. It's slow, and gives us enough free time for our music," said Laoma, its lead guitarist.

"As full-time musicians we have to earn money from both rock shows and commercial performances. The merchant in Chengdu don't ask you to cover songs that

people are familiar with – they give you the chance to play

something original," bassist Jiang Han said.

Love and his band were practicing when the earthquake struck, and members of Mr. Chelonian were on their way to rehearsal.

Outsiders may not understand Chengdu's characteristic optimism. "Look around when walking on the street. Notice anything different since the earthquake? No. That's Chengdu," Laoma said.

On the night of the second day, Mr. Chelonian rocked the stage switching from bouncy reggae and ska to blues. The mixed styles packed the audience at the Lotto Stage. "We never expected there would be so many people watching us. It really moved me," Laoma said.

One could hardly tell a difference between the star Beijing bands and local acts if looking only at talent and dress. The Chengdu scene deserves a larger audience. For most, a music festival in their hometown fulfills something that for years was but a dream.





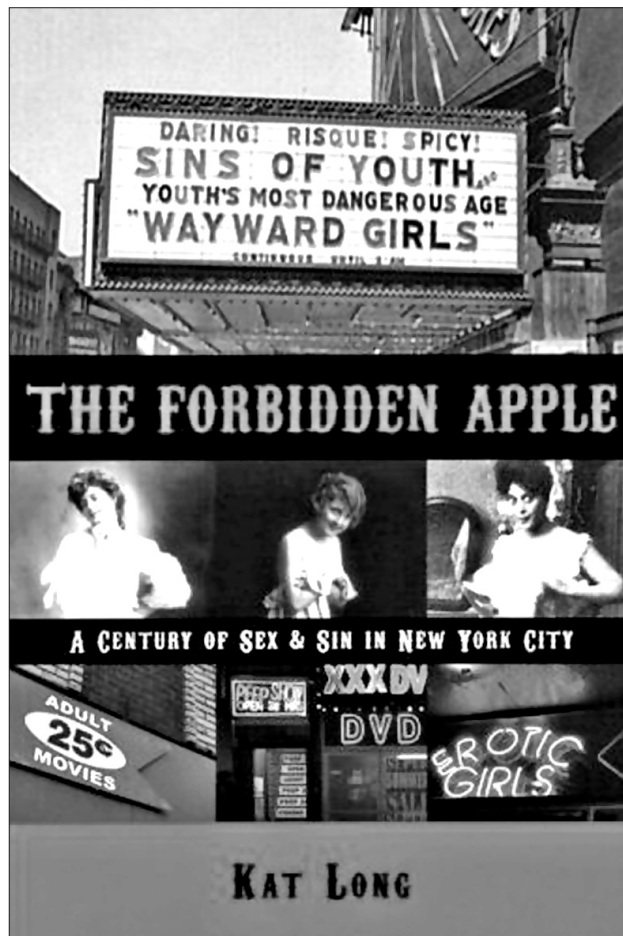
# The apple forbidden, and yet appealing

By Charles Zhu

New York is one of the world's greatest metropolises, best known for its trade, culture and perhaps for its vice. The city, home to one of the highest crime rates, has never relaxed its efforts to stem vice: not that those efforts have done any good. In her book *Forbidden Apple: A Century of Sex and Sin in New York City* (287pp, Ig Publishing, US \$18.95), Kat Long chronicles the often contradictory results of the city's efforts to tackle prostitution and smut.

The book is less about sex than the struggles of the sex and smut trades to resist crackdowns on its key operations: strip joints, peep shows and gay bathhouses. It records the repeated and random rises and falls of each side. The forces of licensing and repression always adapt and change.

Long begins in rowdy post-Civil War New York, when vice ran wild. Cops, clergymen and social scientists called for reform, and the first attempt to quash the city's moral offenses came in the form of denunciatory and political campaigns. But the methods were crude and the results were bitter-sweet. Under the 1896 Raines Law, authorities tried to eliminate drinking on Sunday by limiting it to hotels. Every bar and saloon in Manhattan suddenly put up dividers to create makeshift isolated compartments – literally brothels – and prostitution thrived in



these "Raines hotels."

For the moral crusaders, pornography was like a wild prairie fire that spread faster the more they tried to stamp it out.

In an effort to clean up its public image, city authorities made the licensing more

restrictive to kill the Raines Law hotels, "dance halls, burlesque theaters and tenement barrooms." The fix did not last long. Immoral motion pictures appeared as a new incubator of vice. "The fear of movies' bad influence on children morphed into a genre of movies about the

bad influences on children in a treacherous city." Long cites as an example the titillating but morally instructive *The Inside of the White Slave Traffic*, a film depicting the sexual coercion of innocents into a life of brothels. When the deputy police chief of New York came to the Park Theatre in an attempt to seize the film, the 500 women or so waiting to see it broke into a riot, and several thousand protestors demonstrated in sympathy.

The book reviews social movements involving birth control advocate Margaret Sanger, an obvious offender and progressive who advocated women's emancipation; anti-sex advocates; a pre-World War I campaign against venereal disease with "new standards in safeguarding public health;" the post-World War I rejection of pre-War values; the feminist, gay and sexual revolutions; venereal epidemics, including the rise of AIDS.

As America was gripped in the throes of economic depression in the early 1930s, burlesque theaters thrilled men of that era who were down in their luck. Will the current recession usher in a new era of vice? The answer is unknown, but *The Forbidden Apple* suggests that when it comes, history will repeat itself.

Modern administrators in New York would say, if you cannot repress pornography, you might as well tax it to balance the city's budget.

## Saving the vanishing memory of China's working class

By He Jianwei

To prepare for war in the 1960s, the government relocated and upgraded institutes and factories in the rear of China's "Third Front." The Front was a large-scale program, started in response to the then – volatile international situation, to build a range of industrial bases in its remote yet strategically secured hinterland.

The Chengdu Engine Group, an aeronautics and armaments factory, became part of one Third Front factory base when it moved from northeast China to the southwest in 1958.

Last year, the factory moved again. Its original site in downtown Chengdu, Sichuan Province, is being used for *24 City*, a new luxury hotel and housing complex, complete with shops and leisure facilities.



Jia Zhangke who is fascinated by China's modern ruins, directed the film *24 City* last year.

Before demolition, Jia and his crew interviewed almost 100 workers from three generations, and selected eight people's stories for the film. Five of the film's testimonies were

given by real workers from the factory. The other three were performed by actresses.

After making the film, he recorded the interviews in *A Collective Memory of Chinese Working Class* (264pp, Shandong Pictorial Publishing House, 35 yuan).

The book includes the real workers' testimonies and how the director created the other three workers. "I decided to integrate documentary and fiction in this parallel flow because this seemed to me the best way of representing the last half-century. As far as I'm concerned, 'history' is always a blend of facts and imagination," he said.

When he read in 2006 that the factory would be demolished, Jia took out an ad in the *Chengdu Commercial News* to find the workers willing to tell their stories. "Most

of the workers sobbed when they spoke a few words. I wrote down their names and contact numbers, and decided to do the face-to-face interview to see their lives," he said.

The book explores the history of this factory and the fates of those who worked in it. Their testimonies are an account of the nationwide shift from state ownership to private enterprise – and of the consequent change in the status of workers.

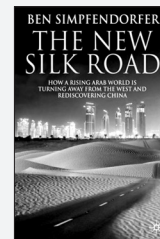
"I'm not interested in chronicling this history as such, but rather in seeing how a century of experiments with socialism has impacted on the fate of the Chinese people. To understand the complexity of the social changes, we need to listen to the direct and in-depth testimonies of the people who have lived through them," he said.

## Bookworm book listing

Vivian Wang from the Bookworm recommends the following best sellers to *Beijing Today* readers.

**The New Silk Road: How a Rising Arab World is Turning Away from the West and Rediscovering China**

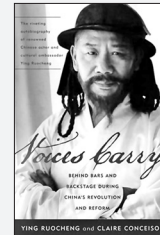
By Ben Simpfordorfer, 256pp, Palgrave Macmillan, US \$39.95



The rise of the Arab world and China, once trading partners via the Silk Road, are part of the same story. It is not a coincidence that Arab traders have returned at the same time when China is fast regaining its share of the global economy. This is a breakthrough account of how China is spurring growth in the Arab world.

**Voices Carry: Behind Bars and Backstage during China's Revolution and Reform**

By Ying Ruocheng and Claire Conceison, 320pp, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, US \$29.95



Beginning with his imprisonment during the Cultural Revolution, Ying Ruocheng's riveting autobiography takes us through unexpectedly amusing adventures during his incarceration before flashing back to his childhood and the legacy of his elite Manchu Catholic family. This is the story of one of China's most prominent actors, directors and translators of the 20th century.

**The Anti-Globalization Breakfast Club: Manifesto for a Peaceful Revolution**

By Laurence J. Brahm, 256pp, Wiley, US \$27.95



Alternative models for grassroots economic development, such as microfinancing, are being widely adopted in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and elsewhere. Bhutan favors new measures of development, such as GDH (gross domestic happiness), over GDP, and China's own hybrid approach combining market and planned policy to achieve economic transformation offers new choices for developing countries. These represent a new wave of thinking that rejects the increasingly discredited policies of the IMF and World Bank.

(By He Jianwei)



# Evening Fun Runs a path to fitness

By Han Manman

Running, jogging and walking are common but low-involvement exercises that don't require any technical skill. In fact, they can be kind of boring for younger people.

But Fun Runs – a night-time creative course – is another story. The courses can be an interesting way to exercise that offers all the benefits of a traditional run.



## Making a game of it

At the sound of the pistol, nearly 2,000 runners took off in Chaoyang Park last weekend. They were all Beijing residents who applied online to join a Fun Run organized by Li-Ning, a domestic sports brand.

Runners were divided into two groups – “night owl” and “night traveler” – for their 6 kilometer journey. However, the journey was not as simple as a run. The runners had to navigate dark, unlit areas and pass through a labyrinth. During the run, there were strange events like organizing staff attacking the players with water pistols. Everyone who made it to the finish line received a gift.

“It's really an exciting experience. I never ran 6 kilometers before,” Chen Juan, a 27-year-old woman, said. She said long distance running was her most hated exercise, “But this time, I did it. I thought I would give up running at first, but when there started to be all kinds of surprises, I felt more energetic,” Chen said.

Organizers said Fun Runs are popular in many Western countries. They hope the event can encourage more Beijingers to pursue creative exercise.

“It's not about how far you can run and how quick you get there. Just enjoy the experience, that's the idea of the event,” said He Dongjian, Li-Ning's brand communication executive.

“We were absolutely stunned by the turnout,” He said. The company received thousands of applications online, “But we could only chose 2,000 applicants this time.”

“This fantastic crowd showed us that despite hard economic times, people are still optimistic and willing to go the extra mile for fun exercise,” she said.

## What's a Fun Run?

A Fun Run is a friendly race that involves either road running or cross country running with participants taking part for pleasure rather than competition. It is usually held to raise funds for a charity, with sponsors providing the revenue



*Fun Runs are sometimes side event to a marathon.*

to cover organizational costs.

Fun Runs can be for novelty, with runners donning costumes, or divided by age, with different categories for children, teens and adults. They can also be a side event to a marathon or more serious races. Motorcycle, snowmobile and other motorized vehicle events are also sometimes categorized as “Fun Runs.”

“The whole atmosphere of a Fun Run, including its name, has connotations of enjoyment rather than of a sporting event. After all, it is usually community, family and friend-oriented, and raises money for a worthy cause,” He said.

## Fashionable and healthy

Night Fun Runs are not only a fashionable way to exercise, but very healthy. Some experts say a night Fun Run is even healthier than morning exercise.

Many people wake up ready to exercise first thing. For ages, it has been hailed as the key to health and fresh air. However, Japanese experts have found not everyone is fit for morning exercise.

“As dawn approaches, your heart begins



*Participants ran for pleasure rather than competition. Photos provided by Li-Ning*

to work harder, pumping a few extra beats per minute. Your whole cardiovascular system has to adjust as you stand for the first time. Vessels contract to help overcome gravity's pull and ensure an ample supply of blood to the brain so you can take your first few steps without stumbling,” Doctor Ma from Beijing Guoyitang Chinese Medicine Hospital, said.

## If the early hours are not the best time to exercise, when is?

Studies have found that exercise later in the day yields better performance and more power. Muscles are warm and more flexible, perceived exertion is low, reaction is quicker, strength is at its peak and the resting heart rate and blood pressure are low.

“A night Fun Run is a perfect way for the family to get some exercise and have fun at the same time,” Li Guoqing, 58, said. This time, Li participated in the event together with his son and daughter-in-law.

“We never did exercise together like this before. I found this run much more interesting than when I go out alone,” Li said, adding that he is considering inviting some friends or family to run with him in the future.

## Pop stars in on the event

Some domestic pop stars also joined the event, including singers Xu Wei and Hu Yanbin.

“I'm a night Fun Run lover. I usually run 40 minutes at night, mostly after 9 pm,” Xu said.

“Many of my songs are written during runs,” Xu said, adding that the night run not only helps him relax but makes it easier to sleep.

For Hu Yanbin, it is more about entertainment than exercise. Hu said when he first heard about Fun Runs, he decided to invite some friends to try.

“Don't think of the run as a sporting event: that will just give you pressure,” he said. “Treat it like watching a movie or having dinner with your friends.”





Kailas tent at 1,080 yuan

### Kailas

This brand, which originated in Australia, is one of the country's leading outdoor equipment manufacturers. It targets middle-class consumers who are enthusiastic about the outdoors, but who cannot afford brand names like The NorthFace or Columbia.

One of Kailas' newest products is the brightly colored Spring Sunshine Tent (1,080 yuan), which is suitable for

camping, hiking or leisure travel. It has two layers designed to protect against wind and moisture.

It has a front as well as a small back opening, especially for stuffing inside things like sleeping mats, cameras and video recorders. Kailas also has lighter tents, which is easier for children and newbies to set up, without sacrificing the structure's stability and durability.

By Annie Wei

Quality products for outdoor activities do not come cheap. Consumers pay for high-grade materials and specialized designs, especially for equipment meant for high altitudes and extreme weather conditions.

For regular outdoor activities in a normal environment, mid-range brands can do the job. Their goods may not be as innovative and technologically advanced as those at the top end, but they can save a lot of money.

Local companies who used to manufacture for foreign brands have shifted strategies and are now trying to corner the domestic market.

Zhao Yan, a 39-year-old outdoor enthusiast, introduced *Beijing Today* to some of the reputable local brands, and told us where to find inexpensive name brands.

Some people think the more a tent is airtight, the better.

This is not true. It needs to provide proper ventilation, especially when people are sleeping. At night, the temperature outside drops, so air that cannot escape becomes trapped as moisture. This is why some people find some tents moist in the morning. Unless travelers are climbing very high altitudes, it is advisable to find a

well-ventilated tent.

The thicker a tent's material is, and the heavier it is, the higher its waterproof level. Kailas' light tents weigh only 2 kilograms.

### Sanfu Outdoor Store

Where: South gate of Chaoyang Park, 1 Nongzhan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 8:30 pm

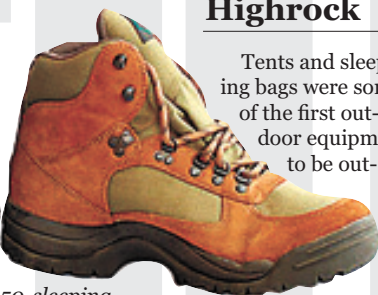
Tel: 6592 5827

Web site: kailas.com.cn

# Outdoor fun with affordable gear



SynTeryx Blue Worm 350 sleeping bag is the same size as a boot, weighing less than 1 kilogram.



### Highrock

Tents and sleeping bags were some of the first outdoor equipment to be out-

sourced to China because they were relatively easy to make.

Highrock is a Tianjin-based Canadian company that specializes in designing and manufacturing outdoor and recreational products, including hundreds of kinds of sleeping bags, tents and rucksacks.

The company claims to have a quarter of the US sleeping bag market, and sales of US \$27 million (184 million yuan). One of their biggest cli-

ents is the Chinese military, to which they began supplying sleeping bags in 2003.

Their sleeping bags come in different models, and cost from several hundred to thousands of yuan.

### Qiangqiangfeng outdoor

Where: Underground 1, Building 6, Jia Xiangjun Bei Li, Hujialou, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 8 pm

Tel: 6585 8278

Web site:

highrock.com.cn

### SinTeryx

SinTeryx has a good line of outdoor apparel, down coats and sleeping bags, and the company offers a one-year warranty on its products.

Its combat trousers are famed for being soft and lightweight (only 250 grams in men's designs); a welcome

change from the heavy and stiff material available with other brands. It also uses breathable fabric.

A SinTeryx distributor said the company's down coats are so popular they sell out every year, and a customer has to wait for the following year to get his or her hands on one.

The brand has sleeping bags for spring and summer use, Blue Worm 350, which may be a bit pricey at 590 yuan, offers necessary warmth and protection outdoors.

### Laote Outdoor Store

Where: South side of Building 34, Yuming Dong Lu, Beisanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 9 am - 9 pm Tel:

6205 3324

Web site: Laote.com

### Bei'ao Yingdi

Where: 417 Jingjiang Building, (250 meters east of Exit B1 of Yuquan Lu on Subway Line 1), Haidian District

Open: 10 am - 6 pm

Tel: 6680 8406

Web site: northcolcamp.com

### Haicheng Huwai

Where: 2-5 Jiamei Fengshang Center, 15 Furong Jie, Wangjing, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 6 pm

Tel: 8476 3310

Web site: hchw.net



This cap costs 100 yuan at a small outdoor equipment shop, but 300 yuan at department stores.



Marmot apparel 350 yuan at a small outdoor equipment shop, but 1,000 yuan at exclusive stores.



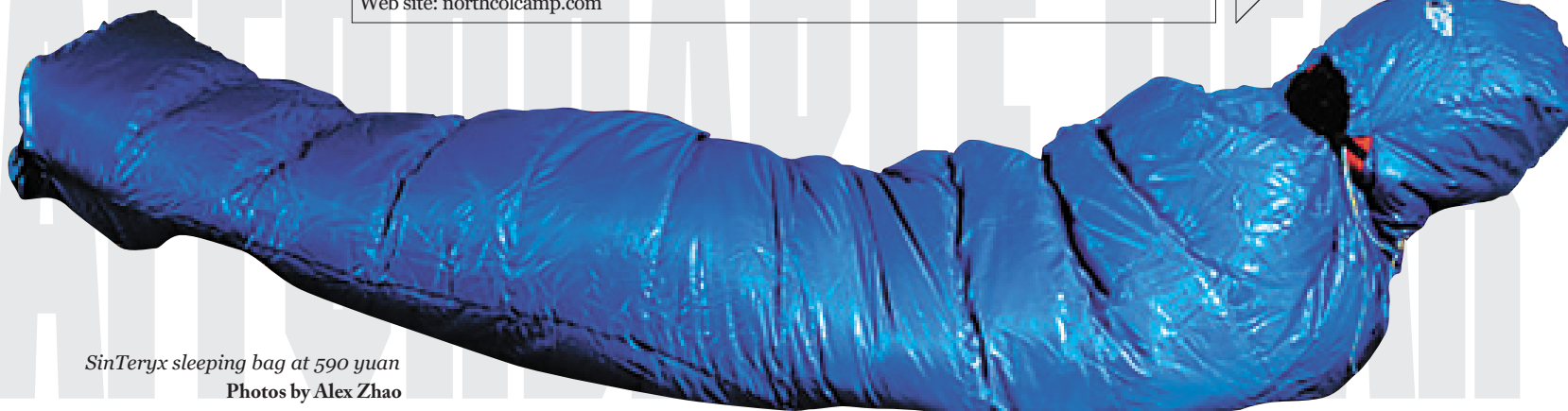
LED headlight 400 yuan



SinTeryx combat trousers at 250 yuan



Ice runner 590 yuan



SinTeryx sleeping bag at 590 yuan

Photos by Alex Zhao



By Zhao Hongyi

Last week, we introduced the first five of Beijing's "10 most innovative restaurants" according to Fantong.com, the country's leading restaurant review and booking Web site.

Here is the second batch of these notable dining places to give you more ideas how to spice up your weekend in town.

# Dining Web site's top 10 restaurant picks

(continued from last issue)



A-Che offers South American cuisine.

Photos provided by A-Che

## A-Che

This is a cafe, bar and restaurant all-in-one that offers the sights, sounds and taste of Central and South America. The place is adorned with memorabilia, including those of Latin American revolutionary leader Che Guevara and Cuba's adopted US novelist Ernest Hemingway.

A-Che's kitchen is headed by a chef who comes all the way from Cuba; at night, Cuban girls serenade diners with folk songs from their homeland; and of course, there are Cuban cigars within reach.

The restaurant's most popular dishes include green lemonged Negage fish (88 yuan), Cuban roast

pig (50 yuan), Uruguay steak (128 yuan) and Spanish seafood saffron rice (68 yuan). Paella for two, plus two glasses of Sangria, costs 395 yuan.

"A promising balanced menu, freshly made from chef Alexis' kitchen guarantees your satisfaction," *City Weekend* says of the restaurant.

Located at the Dongzhimen diplomatic area, A-Che is a popular hangout for diplomats.

**Where:** Ground Floor, Bay International Tower (opposite the Australian Embassy), 28 Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

**Open:** 10 am – 10 pm

**Tel:** 5166 3328

**Cost:** 150 yuan



## Amore Italia

Amore Italia, owned by a young Chinese couple who studied in Italy, started out as a small cafe in an apartment. Now, it is a top destination for the city's expats and youngsters.

What put it on the list of must-visit dining places is its hotpot with Italian cheeses – a hit among both foreign and Chinese customers. Other favorites include spaghetti with bacon and cream (68 yuan) and pasta with meat sauce (78 yuan). For dessert, tiramisu and sabayon (28 yuan) are popular.

"I'm delighted to provide affordable but carefully prepared dishes to my clients," Fang Fang, one of the owners, said, adding that most of their ingredients are imported from Italy.

Dining at the restaurant feels like visiting a friend's house because the owners go around greeting diners. On top of these, the place is divided into smoking and non-smoking areas, still a rare



Most of Amore Italia's ingredients are imported from Italy.

Photo provided by Amore Italia

practice in Beijing.

From its name, you can guess Amore Italia is also an ideal place for a romantic dinner.

**Where:** Building 3, Block 1, Fugui Garden, Chongwen District

**Open:** 6:30 am – 11:30 pm

**Tel:** 6713 5547

**Cost:** 50 yuan

## Yumadun

A yumadun is a place designated for an emperor to rest. According to a tale, Qing-dynasty Emperor Qianlong once got off his horse to relax at this spot.

On the site today can be found a restaurant that serves Sichuan and Guangdong cuisines with a contemporary twist.

One of its most popular menu items is black rice cake (28 yuan), which is a mixture of seafood and fried chicken meat. Other recommended dishes are shrimp-boiled vermicelli (38 yuan), spicy hot fish slices (48 yuan), fried squid rolls (48 yuan) and stone-roasted beef slices (58 yuan), which go well with bread.

Yumadun gained fame in the past year for serving the US sporting team during the Beijing Olympics.

**Where:** 19 Xijiekou Lu, Haidian District

**Open:** 9 am – 11 pm

**Tel:** 5880 5218; 5880 5221

**Cost:** 70 yuan



Yumadun's dishes have a contemporary twist.



Yumadun's nice dining atmosphere

Photos provided by Yumadun



Yuanluo restaurant has a lovely courtyard.



Photos provided by Yuanluo

## Yuanluo

Yuanluo is located in the Houhai bar area, inside a courtyard with bamboo trees by the entrance and gold fish in the pond. It is particularly nice to dine here on a winter afternoon, when the sun casts interesting light over the old houses.

"Calm and relaxing" are the best words to describe the ambiance. The downside to this seclusion is that it is a bit hard to find.

Yuanluo serves Beijing and Sichuan food along with Japanese and Western dishes. Try its vinegar-marinated eggplant (18 yuan), conch slices (38 yuan), tofu-boiled duck (28 yuan) and honey-brushed chicken wings (28 yuan). Its fried chips and cheeses are also recommended.

**Where:** 119 Di'anmen Xi Dajie, Xicheng District

**Open:** 10 am – 2 pm for lunch; 4:30-10 pm for dinner

**Tel:** 6657 0747

**Cost:** 60 yuan

## Wanliuge

Located beside Longtan Park in southeastern Beijing, Wanliuge was designed like a Chinese palace and contains traditional decorations.

It specializes in Cantonese seafood dishes, but done hot pot-style. Popular among diners is its stone fish (169 yuan per 500 grams), hot pot in porridge soup (68 yuan), fried prawns (28 yuan) and shrimp ravioli (38 yuan).

The roast chicken is another dish not to miss, which local guests usually order with *huangjiu*, a glutinous rice wine. Wanliuge's lobster and abalone, the top Chinese seafood, are also worth trying.

More adventurous diners may want to try the restaurant's eel cakes (38 yuan for six pieces). Eel meat is mixed with ginger, garlic and scallion to form a jam; flour is added to the mixture and then baked.

Diners can choose to eat outdoors, where they will have a great view of the park and its lake. A walk in the park after dinner is a great way to end the meal, especially on a hot summer evening.



Wanliuge has a nice Chinese garden view.



Pork rib

**Where:** 8 Longtan Lu, Chongwen District

**Open:** 9 am – 10 pm

**Tel:** 6719 5886

**Cost:** 100 yuan

Photos provided by Wanliuge



# 'The painter of light' finally comes to China

By He Jianwei

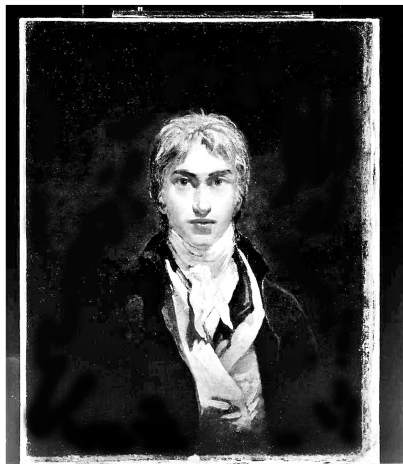
Sixty years ago, painter and art educator Xu Beihong said he wished the works of English artist Joseph Mallord William Turner could be exhibited in China. Finally, his wish has become reality.

The exhibition, which opened at the National Art Museum of China on April 24, spans the breadth of Turner's career; it consists of 112 oil paintings and works on paper loaned from Tate Britain.

Born in 1775, the Romantic landscape painter, watercolorist and printmaker laid the foundation of Impressionism. He was considered a controversial figure in his day, but is now regarded as the artist who elevated landscape painting to the eminence of historical painting.

"In the annals of European art history, Turner holds a special place. He led the late 18th century British art scene, pursued a lifelong dedication to painting landscapes and raised landscape painting to an unprecedented height," Fan Di'an, director of the National Art Museum, said.

Westerners are attracted to the romance in Turner's works, such as fishermen struggling in the wind and snow, and



Self-Portrait  
J.M.W. Turner  
Tate Britain

medieval knights crossing the Alps. But Chinese ink painters, like Xu Beihong, are drawn to Turner's expressive, free-moving techniques.

"In those landscapes of soaring and distant peaks is an expression of the philosophy and emotion of 'people and Nature as

one.' Chinese viewers will feel a sense of déjà vu," Xu said.

Turner is also considered one of the masters of British watercolor landscape painting, and is dubbed "the painter of light." He wove together light, color, shadow and line, and combined thick texture with swift brushwork, to create his signature style.

"Turner's paintings not only symbolize another peak in landscape painting in the tradition of French classical landscapes and Dutch seascapes; they also display a unique and rich cultural temperament due to their infusion of characteristics rooted in British history and environment," Fan said.

The artist was far ahead of his contemporaries in his viewpoint, creative philosophy and techniques. Late 19th century Impressionism and 20th century Abstract Expressionism can be traced to Turner's bold experimentations.

## Turner: From the Tate Collection

Where: Hall 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until June 28, 9 am - 5 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6400 1476

## Upcoming

### Exhibition

#### Celebrating the Red Dragon - A Welsh Visual Arts Exhibition

Where: Wall Art Museum, 34 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: May 14- 25, daily, 10 am - 5 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6564 8233 ext. 803

## Stage in June

### Concert

#### 2009 French Piano Festival Beijing - Stephen Kovacevich Recital

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District  
When: June 5, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30-380 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

#### Windsbacher Knabenchor China Première

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District  
When: June 6, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-380 yuan  
Tel: 6831 6633

### Wilderness

Who: China Opera and Dance Drama Theater

Where: Concert Hall of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 20, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-480 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

#### Immortal Mendelssohn - Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of Felix Mendelssohn's Birth

Who: China National Opera House Symphony Orchestra  
Where: Concert Hall of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: June 27, 7:30 pm

Admission: to be announced

Tel: 6655 0000

### Dance

#### The Sounds of Yunnan

Who: Yang Liping, Xia Ga  
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: From June 6, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan  
Tel: 5166 3124

### Raymonda

Who: The Bayerische Staatsballet  
Where: Opera House of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District  
When: June 24-26, 7:30 pm  
Admission: to be announced  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### Dream Variations - Collected Programmes

Who: The Bayerische Staatsballet

Where: Opera House of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District  
When: June 27, 7:30 pm  
Admission: to be announced  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Opera

#### Verdi's Rigoletto

Where: Opera House of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District  
When: June 18-21, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 280-1,080 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

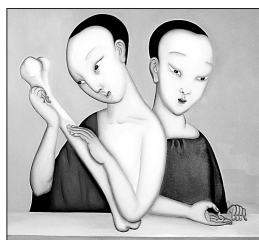
(By Jackie Zhang)

## 5

### Friday, May 8

#### Exhibition

##### Where is Arcadia?



Where: JiuShi Space Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 28, daily except Mondays, 11 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 0467

#### The Energy from Five Artists - Contemporary Painting Exhibition

Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 29, daily, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 4122

#### Movie

##### A Streetcar Named Desire

Where: Blend Coffee, 1354 Building 13, Jianwai SOHO West Zone, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5869 5030

#### Nightlife

##### Class is Over - Silk

##### Stockings Party

Where: MAO Live

House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm

Admission: 50 yuan (surprises for women wearing silk stockings)

Tel: 6402 5080

#### The Sound 2009

George Chen, the musical composer for *A Fish with a Smile*, the Best Short Film at the 2006 Berlin International Film Festival, will stage his first concert in Beijing of pieces he created for film and theater.

Where: PLA Theater, 60 Deshengmen Nei Dajie (southeast corner of Jishuitan Qiao), Xicheng District

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-480 yuan

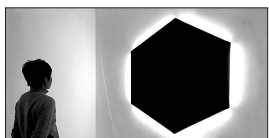
Tel: 5165 2970

## 6

### Saturday, May 9

#### Exhibition

##### Blind Bee



Gao Weifeng is struck by the transience and inadequacy of life; he sees the "tragedy" rooted in a person being controlled by others.

Where: Magician Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 1,

daily except Mondays, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9635

#### Bae Hyung Kyug Sculpture Projects

Where: Peking Fine Arts, 241 Caochangdi Village, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 15, daily except Mondays and Tuesdays, 10 am - 6 pm; reservations accepted on Mondays and Tuesdays

Admission: Free

Tel: 5127 3220

#### Movie

##### Rachel Getting Married

Where: Blend Coffee, 1354 Building 13, Jianwai SOHO West Zone, 39

Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5869 5030

#### Nightlife

##### MUN@Beijing

Where: Haoyun Bar, 1A Xingba Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm

Admission: 40 yuan; 30 yuan for students

Tel: 8448 3335

#### Sham 69 - If the Kids are United

Where: Star Live, 3/F, 79 Hepingli Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm

Admission: 120 yuan

Tel: 6425 5677

### Sunday, May 10

#### Exhibition

##### Puberty - Xie Haiwei Exhibition

Where: Line Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 20, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9685

#### Regroup

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwenmen, Chongwen District

When: Until May 20, daily, 10 am - 5 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6525 1005

#### Shang Yang - the Dong Qichang Project

Where: Beijing Center for the Arts, 23 Qianmen Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until June 7, daily, 10 am - 10 pm

Admission: Free (only reservations admitted on Mondays)

Tel: 6559 8008

#### Movie

##### Movie Exhibition

Where: Space For Imagination, 5 Xiwangzhuang Xiaoqu, Shuangqing Lu (east gate of Tsinghua University), Haidian District

When: 3-7 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6279 1280

#### Nightlife

##### Electric Bicycle World Tour Farewell Party

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6404 2711

#### Hollerado China Tour - Beijing

Where: 2Kolegas, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu (inside the drive-in movie theater park), Chaoyang District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 25 yuan

Tel: 6436 8998





# General mobilization for blocking A(H1N1) influenza

## What is A (H1N1)?

A (H1N1) is a swine respiratory disease caused by the type A influenza virus. A (H1N1) viruses cause severe illness but low death rates in pigs. The viruses may circulate among swine throughout the year, but most outbreaks occur during the late fall and winter months like in human flu. The influenza type A (H1N1) virus was first isolated from a pig in 1930.

## How many swine flu viruses are there?

Like all influenza viruses, swine flu viruses change constantly. Pigs can be infected by avian influenza and human influenza viruses as well as by their own variant. When influenza viruses from different species infect pigs, the viruses can swap genes to form new viruses. At this time, there are four main influenza type A virus subtypes that have been isolated in pigs: H1N1, H1N2, H3N2 and H3N1. However, most of the recently isolated influenza viruses have been H1N1 viruses.

## Can people catch the virus from eating pork?

No, the viruses are not transmitted by food. There is no evidence that the flu can be transmitted through eating pork or pork products. "Eating properly handled and cooked pork and pork products are safe. However, it is essential to cook meat properly. A temperature of 70 C will be sure to kill the virus, along with other bacteria," Lu Jinxing, a researcher at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CCDC), said.

But experts are stressing that this is now a disease which is being passed between people.

The World Organization for Animal Health said culling pigs, as Egypt has proposed, is "inappropriate" as a measure to stop swine flu's spread.

It added there was no evidence of humans acquiring infection directly from pigs.

By Venus Lee

The world has been in a panic over "swine flu" the last few weeks. Many countries issued a ban on pig trade, and Egypt started a campaign to examine and cull all infected pigs within its borders.

However, the World Health Organization (WHO) insists there is no evidence that pigs are passing the virus to humans, or that eating pork products poses an infection risk. The virus contains genetic fragments of swine, fowl and human flu, so the WHO has renamed the new virus A (H1N1).

Although the name changed, its epidemic status has not.



## Prevention

"The current vaccination for A (H1N1) is ineffective against human versions of the virus, since the new virus is resistant to amantadine and rimantadine, antiviral drugs for the treatment of influenza," Lu said. Prevention is most important.

1. Cover the mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing to prevent airborne transmission of the virus.

2. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from your hands to your face or to other people, and clean hard surfaces like door handles frequently using a normal cleaning product.

3. Avoid visiting public places and don't contact people who have the flu.

4. Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth because the viruses can be transmitted easily through these channels.

5. Room ventilation is important. Avoid spitting.

6. Patients who have a fever or cold should wear masks.

7. Build up your immune system.

8. Eat lighter. People who eat meat should stew it at a high temperature.

9. Dress right for the weather, because generally speaking, the nasal mucosa's resistance to the virus declines when the temperature drops to 10 C.

Chinese medicine is worth trying as a preventative. "The Spanish flu of 1918 caused millions of deaths in Europe and America, while the mortality rate of the flu in China was less than 0.1 percent. When SARS spread in Beijing in 1998, we also cured 170,000 patients through Chinese medicine," Cai Haodong, director of the medical department at the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, said.

"Boil 12 grams of Mulberry leaf, 12 grams chrysanthemum, 10 grams bitter almond, 12 grams folium erio-botryae, 15 grams pueraria roots, 15 grams coix seed, 15 grams reed root, 12 grams balloon flower, 12 grams forsythia, 15 grams folium isatidis, 12 grams honeysuckle flower and 6 grams licorice and take the medicine once a day to prevent the virus," he said.

## How to distinguish A (H1N1) from other flu?

"Flu becomes active at the start of summer. But don't confuse the A (H1N1) virus with the common flu. We can reduce panic by learning their differences and seeking proper and timely treatment," Lu said.

## How the viruses spread?

**A (H1N1) virus:** The virus can be directly transmitted from pigs to people and from people to pigs. Human infection with flu viruses from pigs are most likely to occur when people are in close proximity to infected pigs, such as in pig barns and livestock exhibits at fairs. Human to human transmission of swine flu also occurs frequently. "The North American flu is spread by human to human transmission. This is thought to occur the same way as seasonal flu, which spreads by the coughs and sneezes of people infected with the influenza virus. People may become infected by touching something with flu virus on it and then touching their mouth or nose," Lu said.

**Bird flu:** Also known as the H5N1 virus, bird flu is only known to spread from birds to people.

**Common flu:** The viruses spread between people through droplet transmission.

## Who is at higher risk of infection?

**A (H1N1) virus:** According to current reports, patients are mainly between the ages of 20 and 45.

**Bird flu:** Of infected cases reported, children under 13 most easily catch this flu.

**Common flu:** Old persons, children, medical staff who work with influenza patients and patients who suffer from chronic diseases of the liver, kidney or heart have a high incidence of the flu.

## Signs and symptoms

**A (H1N1) virus:**

Early signs of influenza A (H1N1) are

flu-like, including fever, cough, headache, lethargy, lack of appetite, muscle and joint pain, sore throat and runny nose. Some people with the A (H1N1) virus have reported nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. "But

we cannot conclude that the patient has A (H1N1) only through these symptoms: they must be given a medical test," Cai Haodong, a doctor from Beijing Ditan Hospital, said.

To diagnose an infection, doctors must take a respiratory sample within the first four to five days of illness. Identification as a swine flu influenza A virus requires sending the specimen to the CCDC for laboratory testing.

**Bird flu:** Signs of bird flu include a high fever, cough, runny nose, muscle and joint pain and serious inflammation of the lung or the failure of multiple organs.

**Common flu:** Chills, high fever, headache, dizziness, muscle and joint pain and feeling languid, sore throat, runny nose, tearing and cough. It can be accompanied by bellyache, abdominal distension, vomiting or diarrhea.

## Death rate

**A (H1N1) virus:** The mortality of this virus is 6.77 percent higher than that of the common flu, according to a WHO report. The WHO attributes the high mortality to the feral nature of the outbreak; limited public attention when it first began to spread; and delays in seeking treatment, since many people assume it is a common flu.

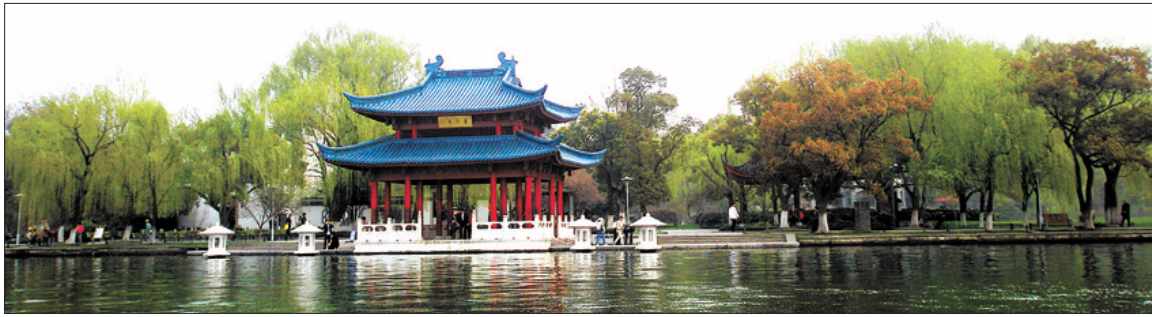
**Bird flu:** The mortality rate of bird flu is as high as 60 percent, according to the CCDC.

**Common flu:** The mortality rate of the common flu is less than one percent.

CFP Photo







A statue of Su Dongpo

# Footprints beside the water

## Temples, memorials and shrines around the West Lake

### Su Dongpo's Memorial and the Su Causeway

"I'm always thinking if the West Lake were just a wide body of water – without Su Causeway or the landscaped islands – what would it look like?" writer Lin Yutang said in the biography of Song-dynasty poet Su Dongpo.

Su Causeway, a pedestrian causeway across the lake, was named after Su Shi, often referred to as Su Dongpo, the most well-known Song-Dynasty (960-1279) poet. Su held a variety of government positions, most notably in Hangzhou, where he was responsible for constructing and restoring the causeway that now bears his name.

As a two-time governor of Hangzhou, he supervised water-control projects within the West Lake. Some historical records say the causeway was not built by Su; he only restored it during his tenure.

The causeway spans the breadth of the lake from Nanping Hill in the south to Qixia Hill in the north. Along the causeway stands six single-span stone arch bridges: Yingbo (reflecting the waves), Suolan (locking the waves), Wangshan (looking over distant hills), Yadi (causeway balustrade), Dongpu (eastern ford) and Kuahong (spanning a rainbow).

At the entry to the causeway stands a statue of Su; beside it, his memorial. He is buried in Henan Province's Jia County, where the rest of his family lies.

Su's memorial was reopened in 2004, with free admission. The two-story main building was designed based on Qing architecture. Exhibition rooms on the first floor tell Su's life story, especially the two periods in which he was appointed governor of Hangzhou. Halls on the second floor mainly display his poems, paintings and calligraphies, as well as the works of other painters and calligraphers who adopted Su's themes. Visitors can also buy copies of Su's poetry and reproductions of his paintings and calligraphies there.

It is recommended that tourists visit his memorial first, then take a stroll along the causeway. People who want to take their time sightseeing will probably need an hour to go through the six bridges and take pictures. During the low tourist season (November to April), bicycles are available for rent for those who want a quicker tour of the area.

**Getting there:** Take bus K4, K504, K514, K808, K822 or 315 and get off at Sudi stop

### Yuewang Temple

Beside Su Causeway's exit is Beishan Lu; on its north side, surrounded by ancient cypresses, lies Yuewang Temple, a tomb and memorial hall to Yue Fei.

Yue, a military general who fought for the Southern Song Dynasty against the Jurchen armies of the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234), is considered a model of loyalty.

One of the most popular stories about Yue involves the tattoo on his back. According to legend, it contained four Chinese characters *jing zhong bao guo*, which meant "serve the country with utmost loyalty," tattooed by his mother before he left home to join the army.

Yue died at the relatively young age of 39. There are conflicting accounts about how he died, but several officials including Qin Hui, Qin's wife Wang and two of Qin's subordinates, were involved. They falsely charged Yue in front of the emperor, which led to the general's execution.

As a symbol of reprisal in the afterlife, iron statues of his four accusers kneeling were placed behind Yue's tomb in the temple. For centuries, these statues have been cursed and spat at by young and old. The original statues were cast in bronze, but they became damaged and were replaced by the current ones. These statues are now considered historical relics of that period. Stone horses, tigers, rams and other figures stand guard on both sides of the tomb.

By Zhang Dongya

Hangzhou is "the paradise on earth" according to a Chinese proverb, and 13th-century explorer Marco Polo described it as "the most splendid city in the world." Without a doubt, Hangzhou's West Lake should be on a traveler's itinerary whether or not it is the person's first time in the city.

While walking along the lake, people will get a picturesque view of willows swaying in the breeze and peach trees bursting with pink blossoms. Visitors can also see the tombs and monuments of some great names in Chinese history. According to some sources, there are more than 20 tombs scattered along and around the lake. Some of these people were born in Hangzhou, while some chose to be buried amid the amazing natural scenery.

Once a month beginning this month, *Beijing Today* will feature travel destinations outside Beijing. This week, we take you to Hangzhou's West Lake to follow the footprints left by some of history's greatest figures.



Six single-span stone arch bridges can be seen along the Su Causeway.



The Yuewang Temple in Hangzhou is one of four around the country built to commemorate Yue Fei.

CFP Photo



A stroll on the Su Causeway is the best way to enjoy the beauty of the West Lake.

Continued on page 21...

Hangzhou's West Lake is famous not only for its great beauty, but also for being the final resting place of some of history's greatest figures. Photos by Sherry Wu



... continued from page 20



Qiu Jin's statue and tomb  
CFP Photo



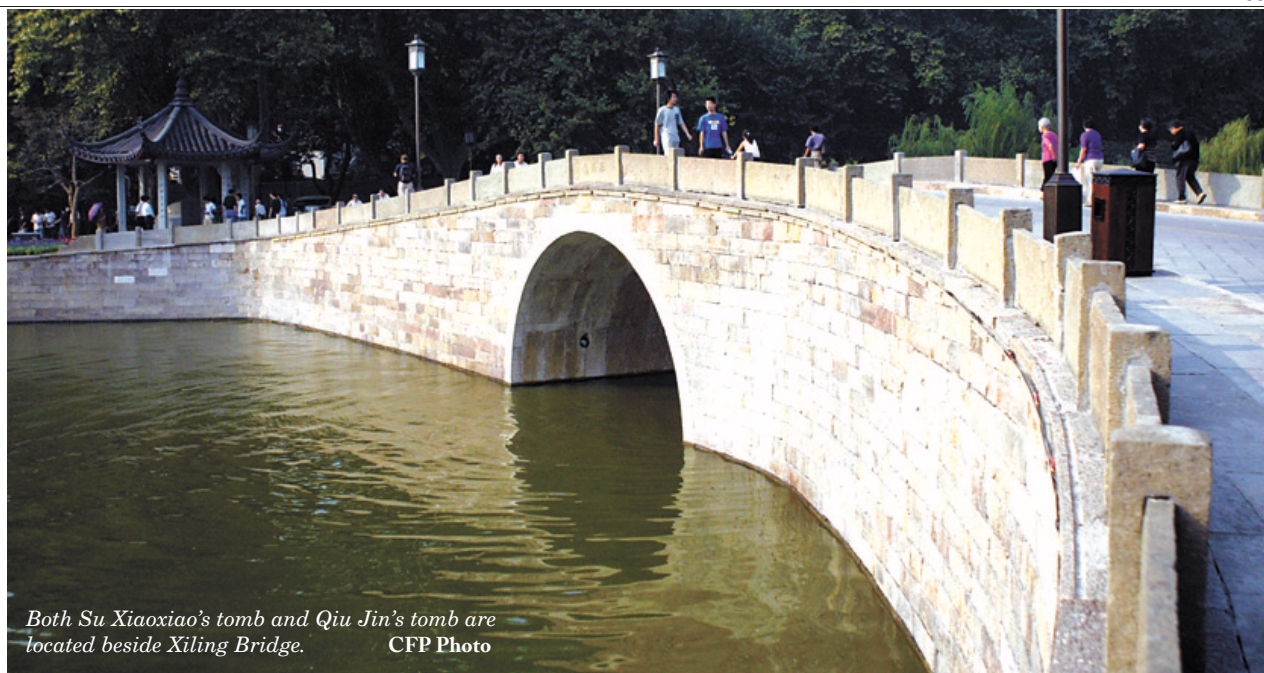
Numerous visitors to the West Lake search out Su Xiaoxiao's tomb.



On the way to Yu Qian's Shrine on Santai Mountain is a large area full of peach trees.



Visitors pay their respects to Yu Qian with flowers and poems.  
Photos by Sherry Wu



Both Su Xiaoxiao's tomb and Qiu Jin's tomb are located beside Xiling Bridge.  
CFP Photo

The temple was built in 1221, in the Southern Song Dynasty, and was renovated in 1979. In the memorial hall is a statue of Yue, with a banner above it that says, "huan wo he shan," or "return my rivers and mountains," words that the general himself once uttered.

The temple by the West Lake is just one of four around the country built to commemorate Yue.

#### Tomb of Su Xiaoxiao

Su Xiaoxiao was a famous courtesan in old Hangzhou, when it was still called Qiantang in the Southern Qi Dynasty (479-502). Her tomb is situated beside Xiling Bridge near Beishan Lu.

Su is remembered not only for great beauty, but for her intellect and courageous pursuit of love. Her life story and the poetry she wrote served as an inspiration for later writers and artists. She was the romantic heroine of Tang-dynasty poets like Bai Juyi, Li He and Ming-dynasty writer Zhang Dai.

She died of illness at only 19 years old, and was buried beside her beloved West Lake. According to historical documents, when Ming-dynasty artist Xu Wei visited her tomb, it was in good condition. But in the Qing Dynasty, painter Zheng Banqiao failed to find the tomb. Qing emperor Qianlong inquired about the tomb, and when the ruler visited the south in 1784, it was rebuilt.

Later, a pavilion named "Mucai," or "affection for talent," was built around Su's tomb, according to a tale about the courtesan. The story tells of her meeting an impoverished young scholar, who was hoping to

reach the capital to sit for the official examinations. Su gave him several nuggets of silver from her purse, and he ended up passing the exams.

Su's tomb was destroyed during the Cultural Revolution, but it was rebuilt in 2004, complete with a new pavilion with 12 poetry posts handwritten by famous calligraphers.

#### Tomb of Qiu Jin

Beside Xiling Bridge, at the entrance of Gushan Park, is the tomb and statue of Qiu Jin.

Qiu was an anti-Qing Dynasty revolutionary and a feminist. She studied in Japan and was well-known for her left-wing ideology, as well as for favoring Western male dress. She joined the Tokyo-based Tongmenghui, an anti-Qing society led by Sun Yat-sen, which advocated overthrowing the imperial system in favor of the people's rule.

After a failed uprising in 1907, Qiu was arrested and executed in her home village of Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province. She was 31 years old.

In compliance with her will, which said that "if something bad happens, bury me in Xiling," Qiu's body was laid to rest by the West Lake. Her tomb was rebuilt with granite in 1981, with Sun Yat-sen's inscription words "jinguo yingxiong," or "heroine." Another memorial for her was built in her hometown.

#### Yu Qian's Shrine

Although Yu Qian's shrine and tomb are not situated along the lake, they are worth seeking out.

Yu, a native of Hangzhou, was

a defense minister during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). He is not as well-known as Yue Fei in death, but he achieved the same status as Yue during his life.

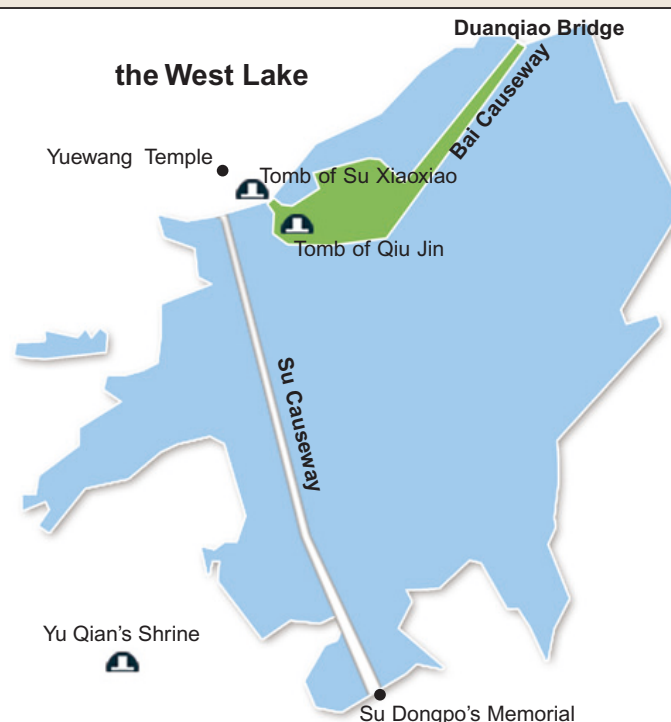
He was best known for safeguarding Beijing and rescuing the Ming Dynasty from subjugation in 1449, during the invasion of the Oyrats – a generic name used during that time for Mongolian tribes occupying the western part of the country. Later, however, Yu was slandered as a traitor and executed. His rank was restored posthumously.

Originally built in 1489, Yu Qian's Shrine has been restored countless times throughout the centuries. It is located on Santai Mountain, clothed by a solemn atmosphere.

It was designed as a traditional shrine with three halls. The front hall features a display of famous poems written by Yu and a reproduction of his home. The middle hall is the main exhibition hall, which contains his statue and a diorama of scenes from the Battle of Beijing in the 15th century. The back hall tells the history of his life and works. Yu's tomb was constructed behind the shrine.

Because of Yu's significant role in history, another memorial for him was built in Beijing, on the site of his former residence. Comments like "No Yu Qian at that time, no present Beijing to some extent," show his great contribution to the country.

**Getting there:** Take bus Y2, Y5, Y6 or Y9 to Yuhuan stop, then walk to get to the shrine





## Dining

## Mother's Day tribute



Make your mom beam with happiness at this treat-filled tribute. Start off her day with a joyous gathering of family and friends at Scene a Cafe's sumptuous Mother's Day brunch, with succulent seafood specialties, signature noodles, dumplings and an unlimited supply of fresh fruit juices and soft drinks. When the merriment is over, indulge her with a luxurious aromatherapy massage at the sanctuary of the

Jingchen Retreat.

Where: China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District  
When: May 10, 9 am - 9 pm  
Cost: 1,188 yuan  
Tel: 6505 2266

## Da Giorgio Mother's Day Set Menu



One of the best ways to celebrate Mother's Day is to give your mom the day off. Let her take it easy and relax as she indulges in the special Mother's Day set dinner prepared by Italian chef Giovanni. The menu includes a Chef's

Salad with Fava Beans, Marinated Artichokes, Pecorino Cheese and Crispy Bacon; Squid Ink Tortellini with Zucchini, Cherry Tomatoes and the Chef's Famous Basil Sauce; as well as plenty of fresh vegetables and attractive desserts.

Where: Da Giorgio, Grand Hyatt, Beijing Oriental Plaza, 1 Dong Chang'an Jie, Dongcheng District

Where: May 10, 5:30-10 pm  
Cost: 400 yuan (subject to 15 percent surcharge)

Tel: 8518 1234 ext. 3628

## Tribute to all mothers

Decorate your own cake for Mother's Day. With a little help from Cafe Swiss's pastry chef, children can learn how to whip up a cake to surprise mom.

Where: Cafe Swiss, Swissotel Beijing, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: May 10

Cost: 350 yuan per adult (includes free champagne and soft drinks), 150 yuan per child under age 12 (includes free soft drinks), subject to 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 6553 2288 ext. 2127 / 4987

## Hotel

## The Best 2009 Luxury Hotel in Beijing

Sofitel Wanda Beijing was unanimously voted by TTG (Travel Trade Gazette) readers as the Best 2009 Luxury Hotel in Beijing at the annual TTG China Travel Awards 2009 Ceremony & Gala Dinner held in Shanghai.

## A Star in the Starlight Award Presentation Ceremony

During the Asia Hotel Forum's

China Hotel Starlight Award Presentation Ceremony, Beijing Marriott Hotel City was named among the Top 10 Convention & Exhibition Hotels of China; Rauf Malik, general manager, was awarded The Best General Manager of China's Hotel Industry.

## Chang'an Reverie Tour Package

Golden Flower Hotel Xi'an is offering the Chang'an Reverie package, developed to enable guests to combine a hotel stay

with a tour of the city's main sights.

The package includes daily buffet breakfast, complimentary broadband Internet access and a one-day guided tour, including transportation and admission fees, to the world famous Terra Cotta Army and Cavalry and to the Huaqing Hot Spring.

Where: Golden Flower Hotel Xi'an, 8 Changle Xi Lu, Xi'an

When: Until August 31

Cost: from 888 yuan per person for three nights

Tel: 029 8323 2981

## Aviation

## SriLankan Airlines Launches Honeymoon Package

SriLankan Airlines is offering a honeymoon package for newlyweds. The package provides an amazing opportunity to enjoy the comfortable climate and beautiful scenery in Sri Lanka and Maldives.

When: Until the end of June

Cost: 4,800 yuan per person (including taxes, two persons at least)

## New wine consultant adds Asian flair to Singapore Airline's wine panel

Singapore Airlines is proud to welcome the first Asian Master of Wine Jeannie Cho Lee to its distinguished panel of wine experts.

Lee is co-founder of the Fine Wine School in Hong Kong, where she continues to lecture. She judges in various international and regional competitions including the Decanter World Wine Awards, International Wine Challenge, Wines of the Pacific Rim and the Royal Adelaide Wine Show.

(By Sun Feng)

# SUBSCRIBE

to  
今日北京

# BEIJING TODAY

For

# gift!

Hotline: 010-65902513, 65902534

Email: charles@ynet.com zhangnan@ynet.com

Web: www.beijingtoday.com.cn



HOW TO GET A GIFT:

Beijing Today one-year subscription costs 104 yuan: You can choose a gift of either a **crocs** T-shirt or a gift card worth 200 yuan valid as cash at Goose & Duck Pub. Stocks are limited, so subscribe as soon as possible.



**Chinglish story**

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

# People as a square peg and round hole

By Charles Zhu

This happened years ago, while I was on a research tour in Boston. A schoolmate named Snyder invited me and my friends to a weekend party at a house she was renting in northern Boston. She was a third-generation German American, who was working on a doctorate degree in Western civilization and was a very good hostess. She said, with an air of mystery, that she would entertain us with a very special kind of beer.

I eagerly looked forward to the gathering, in which there promised to be great beer and American "dirty dancing."

Many friends came to the party. Among them there were Li Lan, a Chinese woman doing cancer research at a medical school, and John, her American boyfriend. We knew they had been dating each other for years and were living together.

The beer Snyder served tasted strikingly different from the Budweiser and Coors the students were used to drinking. It was dry with a strong malt flavor, and it lacked the usual and unmistakable fragrance of hops. I like to think of myself as a man of



CFP Photo

the world and would try any new food or drink at least once.

Li Lan was not so accommodating. She could not stand the sherry-like quality of the beer and refused to take another sip. John, meanwhile, enjoyed the expensive and barrel-aged beer.

He seemed to know a great deal about how beers were brewed. "I think the brewers must have fermented this in barrels that once contained Bourbon, Scotch or Port. It still retains some of the flavors of the previous contents," he said.

John forced Lan to

have a sip of the beer, but Li adamantly refused. John appeared to be getting embarrassed and was losing patience. He said Lan should at least pretend to drink some as a sign of courtesy to Snyder who worked hard to organize a great party.

I sensed this was

among their many conflicts brought about by cultural differences. Differences in lifestyles and habits have given this couple their share of headaches. For instance, Lan would never eat anything that contained milk or butter. This ended up limiting her choice of food, especially in the US.

All of a sudden, we heard Lan screaming at John. Her face was red all over, and she was spitting curses at him. She then began venting old grudges and accused him of having an affair with a fellow student – a woman who was at the party with us!

The people were shocked at Lan's outburst, and the room came to a standstill.

I whispered to Snyder who was standing beside me, "It seems they're water and fire, hardly a good match to each other."

It was an unexpected moment for a language lesson, but that was what I got from Snyder. "I think you're thinking in Chinese. Do you mean it's hard for them to live under the same roof?"

"That's it," I replied.

"Then, in English, we say they have a square-peg-round hole relationship."

"What a vivid description!" I said.

**Blacklist**

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

## Local professor: Zhu Shida

### 1. Using the chocolate based

While the English language does have the combination of noun and past participle as an object of a sentence, we cannot apply the rule here. There are only a limited number of verbs that can have such a combination; for instance, "He made the glass broken." In this case, the writer means that when people manufacture candies, they use chocolate as one of the components. Thus, it would be better to say, "using chocolate as a base."

### 2. He is no long a student.

The sentence should have been written as "no longer." It indicates the status of a thing or a person, which does not exist anymore. He was a student. But he is not a student anymore. So, you say, "He is no longer a student."

### 3. Snake heads were caught end of March.

This again relates to the proper usage of the adverbial of time. You will have to say, "by the end of March" or "at the end of March." You do have the phrase "end of March" as an attributive. Look at this example: "The end-of-March figures indicate that the economy is growing at a rate of 6.1 percent."

## Native speaker: Penny Turner

### 1. Using the chocolate based

Yes, this phrase appears to be talking about chocolate as a baking ingredient, and should be rewritten as "uses/using chocolate as a base." But it is interesting how most native English speakers would immediately understand what this line means. Is it because English is spoken in English-speaking countries by an increasing number of non-native speakers, and people have gotten used to hearing the language mangled? Or is it because all the key words needed to understand it are contained in the phrase?

### 2. He is no long a student.

Here is another example of a grammatically incorrect sentence that makes its point across anyway. "He is no longer a student" should set it right.

### 3. Snake heads were caught end of March.

Like I said last week, our text-messaging culture has contributed to the demise of proper English. People's fast-paced, fast-food lifestyle does not help either; life is going by so fast there is not even enough time to put "in" in the sentence. This is not like sentences in news stories where "on" can be optional before the day of the week: "The restaurant chain opened its 100th branch Thursday."

**Chinglish on the way**

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

# Organism vs. Recycled

By Tiffany Tan

The Chinese words on the upper left say "nonrecyclable"; the character on the lower left says "fruit." I kept thinking how "organism" fit into the big picture – until I realized the sign-maker must have meant "organic."

But the mistake opens a lot of creative uses for the trash bin. If you get tired of your spouse, you can throw him or her inside the "organism" hole. If you think the person still has hope of reforming, then try



"recycle." Those who are trying to get rid of pets might also be tempted to put the animal inside "organism" instead of looking for a new home for it. Watch out for the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)!

But my big Chinese lesson for the day was finding out that trash bins are also called *guoke'r xiang*, or receptacle for peanut shells (and the like).

Photo provided by Engrish.com



## Movie of the week

If you are not a sci-fi fan, staying up for this three-hour movie may not be worth while. However, if planetary destruction is your thing, this one will keep you up all night.

Meteor (2009) is much more than a movie about rocks smashing the Earth and crappy special effects. It talks about a serious calamity at a time when people need to really snap out of it and get involved. It's a treatise on the very things that make us human: the love between a mother and a child, the unending passion a scientist has for his work, the strife and hardship faced by the military and women the world over.

## Synopsis

When an unprecedented number of meteorites strike Earth, a scientist and his assistant must race against time to prevent impending destruction. Amidst the chaos, Detective Jack Crowe desperately searches for his psychotic ex-partner Stark before the madman seeks revenge against his father, Police Chief Crowe, who is dealing with panic in his small town as the meteor storm continues.

# Meteor Path to Destruction

## Scene 1

(General Brasser is appointed by the President to lead a task force to solve the crisis.)

**General Brasser (G):** Ladies and gentlemen, you were awoken from your beds and flown here in the dead of the night because somewhere in your past, you either volunteered for or were volunteered by your agency for a seat on the Near Earth Object Emergency Response Task Force.

Now, put simply, an interplanetary dust storm seems to be headed our way.

**Nate Chetwyn (N):** Uh, hi. Nate Chetwyn, JPL (Jet Propulsion laboratories).

**G:** Ah, the rocket scientist. Welcome.

**N:** In the last six hours, we've had multiple meteor impacts on the west coast of the United States. We're still compiling data from the navy and various satellites.

**G:** Now, Dr. Chetwyn, I assume you've got a team tracking this.

**N:** Well, I've only recently been briefed on all of this. The ... the information's been trickling in (1) and ... But yes, um, we got word a few hours ago from one of our observatories in the meteor tracking network. But, um, there is the possibility that a comet has struck an asteroid. And if that's true, then the increased meteor activity we're experiencing is the, uh, debris from that initial collision.

**G:** How big can these rocks get?

**N:** Anything from a pebble to the size of a truck.

**G:** And the bad news?

**N:** The comet collision may have altered the parent asteroid's trajectory enough that ... it may be on its way to us, too.

**G:** The worst-case scenario (2).

**N:** It's large enough to be considered a small planet. She's 60 miles in diameter and her impact with Earth would be enough to end life as we know it.

**G:** Okay, people. We got our hands full. Let's get moving.

## Scene 2

(Hapscomb bumped into his friend Simon while shopping.)

**Hapscomb (H):** Simon.

Long time.

**Simon (S):** Yeah, a long time.

**H:** Hey, what's goin' on here? I

**H:** Just let's let it go. He's not worth it.

**S:** Yeah, let it go.

**H:** There's more water over there.

**S:** You have yourself a nice day ... sir.

again, I will confiscate them, and I will melt them down for scrap iron. Get him to the hospital. When he is up and to (6) it, I suggest he press charges.

**Lieutenant:** Yes, sir.

**D:** Things are starting to fall apart here. You know, I mean no disrespect, but you're not getting any younger, and this place was being robbed, and you came in way late. Please, just go.

**C:** Hey, nobody's talking to you. Now get him home. He needs to cool off.

**Cashier:** There's no need for that. You know, he's got a point.

**C:** We're spending a lot of time tearing each other apart (7). We need to lend each other a hand. Now, I want you all to go home. I want you to pick up your kids, some food, some blankets, whatever medicine you need, and then head over to the fallout shelter at the high school. You'll be safe there. We'll do everything we can to make you comfortable.

And remember, we're all in this together. We need to look out for each other. So tell your friends and tell your neighbors. Let's help each other. Go on home.

**Cashier:** Let's do what he said. You can pay me later.



Heard what he said to me? I was born here.

**H:** Some mouth.

**S:** Yeah. That mouth gonna get his ass cancelled.

**H:** You did the right thing.

## Scene 3

(The public floods a supermarket for food and water. A man who would not wait in the queue wanted to leave without paying and Dwight stops him.)

**Dwight (D):** No, but I sure the hell will. We ain't gonna put up with (5) any of this thievery. We're not gonna tolerate any lawlessness.

**Captain Finnegan (C):** That's right, Dwight. You're absolutely right. That's why you need to go home.

**D:** I'm just trying to lend a helping hand here, chief.

**C:** You've helped enough. Time to go home now. And if I see either of you boys with your pea-shooters out

thought my house was the only one that got hit.

**S:** Some FEMA guy told people to stock up (3) so ...

**H:** Wow.

**S:** Yeah. Wow is right.

**Another costumer (C):** Hey! That's my water.

**S:** You got your name on this?

**C:** I'm over here getting milk before they run out of that too.

**S:** Yeah, well, look, sorry, sir.

**C:** I said that's my water. It's for my family.

**H:** Hey, relax ...

**C:** Why don't you just get your ass out of my town and crawl back to where you came from?

**S:** Come again (4)?

## Vocabulary

- trickle in:** here means info is slowly becoming available, like the trickling of water into a pool
- scenario:** an imagined sequence of events
- stock up:** to keep on hand a supply of goods
- come again:** here means What? or Pardon?
- put up with:** to tolerate
- be up and to:** here it means when he recovers from Dwight's beating
- tear each other apart:** to beat up on each other, conflict

(By Huang Daohen)